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**DOCUMENTS
ON THE
EARLY BEGINNINGS
OF THE
SOUTH CAROLINA OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL**

AND

**LAND ACQUISITION OF VACATED
ARMY AIR BASE PROPERTY
IN WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

GEORGE M. SMITH

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
MAY, 1999**

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STATE DOCUMENTS

**A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE CREATION
OF THE WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
AND ACQUISITION OF FEDERAL WAR SURPLUS PROPERTY
AT THE CLOSE OF WORLD WAR II
TOTALLY 998 ACRES
IN WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
FOR A PERMANENT HOME FOR AN OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL AND TRADE SCHOOL

INCLUDES MANY PERSONAL LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS FROM DR. WIL LOU GRAY**

GEORGE M. SMITH

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
MAY, 1999**

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA - WIL LOU GRAY - TEACHER AND EDUCATOR

Director Emeritus, Opportunity School
1851 Devine Street, Columbia, S. C.

Place and Date of birth: Laurens, South Carolina, August 29, 1883

Father's name: William Lafayette Gray

Mother's name: Sarah Lou Dial

<u>Education:</u>	Laurens High School, Laurens, S. C.	1899
	Columbia College, Columbia, S. C.	1903-B.A.
	Winthrop College, Summer Schools	1903-'12-'14
	Vanderbilt University, Graduate Work, Nashville, Tenn.	1905-1906
	Columbia University, Political Science, New York	1910-1911-M.A.
	Teachers College, Graduate Work, Education, New York	1916-1917-1927
	Wofford College, Honorary L.L.D.	1947
	Winthrop College, Doctor of Humane Letters-Honorary	1970
	Traveled in Europe, Canada and United States	1918-1952

Brief Career Summary:

Jones School, Greenwood County, S.C.	1903-1904 one teacher school
Wallace Lodge School, Laurens County, S. C.	1904-1905 one teacher school
Wallace Lodge School, Laurens County, S. C.	1906-1907 two teacher school
Martha Washington College, Abington, Va.	1907-1908 English teacher
Youngs School, formerly Wallace Lodge	1908-1910 Principal
Saw need for school for illiterate parents.	
Wished to pioneer, discouraged by community.	
Supervisor Rural Schools, Laurens County, S.C.	1912-1916
Organized first rural night schools (S.C.)	
Published County School Journal, presented	
Historical Pageants at county fairs, developed	
Travel Courses and County-wide 7th grade graduation.	
Supervisor Rural Schools, Montgomery County, Maryland	1917-1918
Resigned October 1, 1918, to become	
Executive Secretary, S. C. Illiteracy Commission	1918
Through influence of this Commission, the General Assembly	
established a Department of Adult Education in the State	
Department of Education, Columbia. The Secretary became	
State Supervisor of Night Schools (Later Adult Education Supervisor)	1919-1946
Many types of schools were organized. Aug. 2, 1921, a one-month	
LAY-BY SCHOOL was opened at Tamassee D.A.R. School. It was an	
experiment in residential education for girls 14 years and older	
who were under 5th grade. This LAY-BY SCHOOL was the forerunner	
of the first OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL held at Lander College July 24th to	
August 19, 1922. This school was so successful that for 25 years	
one-month schools were held in different colleges. The 1946 General	
Assembly appropriated funds for a year-round school located at the	
abandoned Air Force Base in West Columbia. Through the years the	
program has been broadened to meet the needs of persons 16 and	
over who cannot go to day school or college. The program is based	
on the problems of making better citizens and better communities.	
The State Supervisor became:	
Director and Founder of the Opportunity School	1946-1957
On September 3, 1947, South Carolina received from the Federal	
Government a quit claim deed for 998.03 acres of land and 218	
buildings. On February 3, 1957, School became a State Institu-	
tion by Legislative enactment.	

<u>Director Emeritus</u> on retirement since	1957
<u>Director State Branch Senior Citizens of America</u> (volunteer)	1958-1966
Organized first State Branch of Senior Citizens of America	1959
Attained goal - Council on Aging	1966

DECORATIONS and AWARDS

Algernon-Sidney Sullivan Award, June 2, 1937
 Portrait unveiled, Lander College, August 5, 1944
 Chosen Pilot "Woman of the Year" March 2, 1946
 Honorary LLD, Wofford College, June 2, 1947 -
 Doctor Humane Letter Winthrop College 1970
 Certificate of Merit, April 7, 1949, State A and M College (Negro) Orangeburg
 Distinguished Service Plaque, American Legion, July 17, 1950
 Honorary Member, Alpha Kappa Gamma, October 22, 1950
 "Woman of the Year in Service to S. C. Rural Progress" Progressive Farmer, Feb. 1951
 Citation "Distinguished Service to Adult Education" NAPSA Educators 1955
 Citation "Distinguished Service to Church and State" Columbia College, 1952
 Named "Woman of the Week" - Bob Hope - 1955
 Honored "Outstanding Service to Region" SE Adult Education Association, March 24, 1956
 Honored, South Carolina General Assembly in Joint Session, June 13, 1958
 Distinguished Service Award, South Carolina Council for Common Good - 1959
 Citation, "Service to Mankind" Sertoma International-Central S.C. District, May 1961
 S. C. Association for Public School Adult Education "In Appreciation of" 1967
 S. C. Rehabilitation Association Award, 1967
 S. C. Status of Women Conference Award, 1967
 The Columbia Record - Outstanding Community Service, 1969
 Turner Award - "In Appreciation" 1969
 President's Citation "In Recognition of Exceptional Service to others in the
 finest of the American tradition." 1970
 Honorary Member, Delta Kappa Gamma 1971
 Woman's Club of Columbia, "Certificate of Appreciation" February 22, 1972
 Only woman nominated among 34 nominations for S. C. Man of the Half-Century
 South Carolina Hall of Fame - 1974

OTHER AFFILIATIONS and ACTIVITIES

Member of Executive Council S. C. School Improvement Association, 1912-1916
 Vice President S. C. Teachers Association, 1913-1924
 Extensive Travel, United States, Canada, and Europe, 1913 and 1952
 Chairman Board of Trustees, Tamassee D.A.R. School
 President of Alumni Association, Columbia College, 1924-1926
 Summer Lecturer, Oklahoma 1920, Newfoundland 1930
 National Committee to develop Course of Study for Illiterate Adults
 National Education Association Committee on Adult Education Department of Rural
 Education
 Chairman of Education, South Carolina Federation Woman's Club
 Vice President, Department of Adult Education N.E.A. 1928
 Chairman, Southeastern Conference Adult Education 1941
 Director, S. C. Branch Senior Citizens of America 1959-1966
 Board of Trustees, Columbia College
 Member of Governor's Legislative Committee on Aging 1959-1963
 Advisory Board Rehabilitation Workshop Facility of S. C. 1963-1972
 President, Crab Apple Garden Club 1957 ...S. C. Rehab. Association 1964-1972
 President, Adult Department of S. C. Education Association 1960
 Member Advisory Board Planned Parenthood 1963-1964
 Attended First National Committee on Illiteracy 1919, White House Conference
 on Aging in January 1961

MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Survey Graphic, September 1942
The State Magazine Section, April 12, 1949
Colliers, March 29, 1952
Coronet, April 1953
Scholastic (Senior) March 1953
Senior Citizens Magazine January 1960

AND OTHERS x x x

BOOKS AND BULLETINS

Rural Night School in S. C. 1914
Bible Story Reader - 1923 - Co-authored
Opening the Door to Reading '33 (Gray-Jones)
Elementary Studies in Civics 1927
Opportunity Schools of South Carolina
(Co-authored Gray and Tilton)

History of the Opportunity School

The Opportunity School was organized under the direction of the State Department of Education as an experiment in adult education with Miss Wil Lou Gray as supervisor. So far as is known it was the first vacation boarding school for girls over 14 and women on elementary level.....The school opened August 2, 1921, at Tanassee, South Carolina, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in a building provided by the Daughters of the American Revolution.....The conditions for entrance were novel in that no pupil could attend who was younger than 14, who could attend public school, or who had gone further than the fifth grade.....The curriculum at that time included the basic tools of learning supplemented by emphasis on health habits, good manners, civics, domestic science, arts and crafts. The faculty consisted of one teacher, paid one hundred dollars, and three volunteers with several visiting teachers from Winthrop College and the community.....Seventeen girls were registered as boarders for the day school while nineteen men registered for night classes.

This simple experiment proved so successful that the following year plans were made for a larger home. With the aid of the Board of Education of the Upper South Carolina Methodist Conference Lander College was secured for the girls and the Board of Education of the State Baptist Convention were to provide their academy at Groves for the men. Each denomination was to provide \$300 for incidental expenses.....It was soon seen that the students could pay very little, therefore, friends of adult education rallied to the need by supplying scholarship aid.....The School at Groves burned in the spring, too late to secure another home, so the school for the men was not held in 1922.

Lander College was the first college in the country to open its doors, in cooperation with the State Department of Education, to girls and women for the purpose of teaching the mastery of the tool subjects, supplemented by providing every experience possible which would widen environments and awaken ambitions.....Eighty-nine pupils attended in 1922, their ages ranging from 14 to 51. The number of counties swelled from four in 1921 to thirteen in 1922.....The cost was reduced to a minimum by students doing most of the work.....To this session one mill executive sent 20 girls, four from each of his five mills. He was so pleased with their progress that the following year he sent a like number of men to Erskine College and followed this pattern until the depression years came.....The school remained at Lander through 1924.

Erskine College opened its doors to the men in 1923. The organization was similar to that at Lander, always basing learning on everyday needs of a good citizen. The enrollment was 72. Erskine College was the home of the school for men until the two schools were combined at Clemson College in 1931.

In 1924 the girls were again at Lander, but in 1924, due to a remodelling program there, another home had to be found. Anderson College offered its facilities for the years 1925, '26, and '27. A remodelling program again made it necessary to move.

In 1928, 1929, and 1930 the girls' school met at the Women's College in Due West. The boys in the meantime continued to study at Erskine.....In 1931 both schools were consolidated at Clemson College. During this year with the support of a \$10,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation, a study was made in the Learning Ability of Adults. Dr. W. S. Gray, Dean of Education, Chicago University, and Dr. J. W. Tilton of Yale University, directed the study. Standardized tests were given in lieu of the ones locally constructed and it was found that adults learn from three to nine times faster than children. At the close of this session the Opportunity School for the first time presented seventh grade certificates to 52 students.....

During this year a similar study was made with the Negroes at Seneca Institute. Findings: Adults learn faster than children, little difference between learning ability of whites and Negroes, the more schooling one has the easier it is to learn.....Total enrollment for eleven sessions was 1,672.

The school was held at Clemson College through 1942, when it had to be moved due to war conditions. Lander College again offered the school a home for the sessions of 1943 and 1944. Due to remodeling it was necessary to find a new location, and Columbia College opened its doors in 1945.

These one-month terms held through the courtesy of various colleges, demonstrated the need for a permanent year-round school. Immediate impetus was given the movement after the war by the G. I. Bill of Rights, which offered educational training to veterans, and by figures revealed by Selective Service studies showing that twelve per cent of those examined for the draft were rejected because of educational reasons. Since there was no boarding institution in South Carolina emphasizing general education for adults on the elementary or secondary levels, The General Assembly granted the request of the State Department of Education for an appropriation of \$65,000 to be used for a year-round Opportunity School.

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This article tells the story of how the Methodist Church joined hands with the State in making possible the experiment out of which came the Opportunity School. No longer is money needed for support but here is a wide field for locating prospective students and assisting them with scholarships. Much is being done for (See THE BEGINNING OF THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL last page.) ** as written by Dr. Wil Leu Gray in 1923

On November 1, 1921, the State Supervisor of Adult Schools met in Lancaster with the Board of Education of the Upper South Carolina Conference and outlined a plan which had been worked out with the State Superintendent of Education whereby the church and the State could cooperate in teaching men and women to read.

The plan was for the State to secure the use of one or two of the colleges to be opened during the month of August for the purpose of teaching the 3 R's, supplemented by courses in citizenship and, for the women, courses in domestic arts. In addition to the college, at least three hundred dollars was needed to meet the expenses of the school which could not be met by the State -- cooks, a housekeeper, and a matron -- for the State could only pay teachers. The suggestion was received with silence, the Chairman of the Board explained the great opportunity for Christian service for the colleges, and immediately the sainted Dr. Wilson announced that Lander College stood ready to open her doors for the work. After some discussion the Board passed a resolution to accept Dr. Wilson's offer, and authorized the appropriation of \$300 to be used for this purpose, and appointed a committee to cooperate with the State in working out the details.

Apparently that resolution was of no unusual importance, but in reality it marked the beginning of a new chapter in our educational history, for it made possible a second chance in the lives of hundreds of women. Mr. J. R. T. Major immediately had a conference with the State Superintendent of Education and the Supervisor of Adult Schools. Soon after conference Mr. J. R. T. Major, with Mr. Morris, had a conference with the State Superintendent of Education concerning the details of the school, and the work was placed in the hands of the State Supervisor of Adult Schools, who with Mr. Major later visited Dr. Wilson for the purpose of developing a working plan. At first the plan was received by the public as idealistic. The encouragement given was something like this, "Good idea but the girls and women who haven't had a chance will not attend such a school, they are either too timid or lacking in ambition to take advantage of the opportunity." So often was this said that for a time it looked as if it were true, but here, as in hundreds of other cases the educated answered for the uneducated and failed to understand the intense yearning in the hearts of unlearned women to know how better to live so that they might come out of their corner of isolation and be a part of the community in which they lived. (It was left to the mill executives and superintendents to see the wonderful possibilities of such a school and imagine the joy of the authorities when there came a request from Mr. Gossett to reserve twenty rooms.)

Letters were sent out by the Chairman of the Board of Education and Lander College to prominent ministers, and, while the Supervisor of Mill Schools wrote to the m.p., the Supervisor of Adult Schools followed this with a letter to mill executives, social workers, teachers, missionary leaders and club women -- all in an effort to get them to carry the message of the Opportunity School to those in their communities who had been deprived of an education for we realized that the class we wished to reach did not read the papers and only through the personal influence, financial assistance and encouragement of friends could they be persuaded to leave home. In addition, the Supervisor of Adult Schools visited personally a number of mills and went miles into the country looking for girls. From Lander College Miss Alexander got in touch with the various organizations in the city and through the papers gave publicity to the school. On June 23 she wrote to the Supervisor of Schools as follows: Just after the paper came out yesterday a woman phoned her daughter's name -- the first to be registered. It remained, however, for the mill executives, superintendents and social workers to see the wonderful possibilities of such a school and imagine the joy of the authorities when one mill president, J. P. Gossett

of Williamston phoned for reservations for twenty girls -- four from each of his mill villages. From then on registrations came daily, most of which were from mill villages.

The Lander Opportunity School Bulletin had been written and given wide distribution. As each girl would register, a bulletin was mailed to her immediately with a personal note from the college and one from the State Department, for it must be remembered that in dealing with these girls we were dealing with a group whose world was largely described by a radius which included often only the home and the mill and it was imperative that they be made to feel that a real welcome awaited them at Lander.

The session was to open on Monday, July 24, but there came to the college on Sunday afternoon, three most interesting students -- the first, a grandmother. Dr. Wilson said that this school was simply the answer to her prayer that some way would be found for her to learn to read her Bible and communicate with her absent children; a woman refined in appearance and cultured by nature who for fifty years had been deprived the joy of reading her Bible and writing her name.....The next two pupils, sisters, aged 18 and 21, were brought by a generous hearted Methodist steward through the country for a distance of over seventy-five miles. Several years ago his attention had been attracted by two small girls leading an old blind father into the woods where they located trees for the father to saw and by this means made a living for a family of six. The steward recognized here an opportunity to do Christian service and from then on he had aided the family in numerous ways, so when a minister's wife appealed to him to help her get these girls to Lander he readily cooperated.....In all, eighty-nine pupils registered. They had all been deprived of an education; they were all wage earners; and they all came inspired with an ambition to learn and so fundamentally they resembled the first group which had met in 1921 at Tamasee, South Carolina.

Last summer, the State Department of Education with the cooperation of the Board of Education of the upper South Carolina Methodist Conference and Lander College conducted for the month of August a unique school at Lander College. This school was open to girls over fourteen, and women who in youth did not have a chance to attend school. So successful was the school that plans are now perfected for the summer session of 1923. This project marked a new epoch in our educational history. When the plan was first suggested by a representative of the State Department of Education, the reply usually received was, "Why, that is a good thing, but I don't think practical, for I don't believe you could ever get the people you want to attend such a school."

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* high school graduates with superior ability through all types of foundations but little has been done for the millions who are forced to drop out of school before completion of eighth grade- many with superior ability, however, those of meager ability could be immeasurably helped by attending a boarding school geared to their needs. This is a field in which our church could help rather than in trying to establish a school independently.

H. L. G.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

The Opportunity School was founded in 1921 by Miss Wil Lou Gray, State Supervisor of Adult Education, at Tamasee, the mountain school of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The first school, scheduled for "lay-by time" so that farm women and girls could attend, opened August 2, 1921, as an experiment in adult education. So far as is known, it was the first boarding school for women on elementary level. Requirements were that a pupil be no younger than fourteen, be unable to attend public school and have no higher than a fifth grade education. The curriculum at that time included the basic tools of learning supplemented by emphasis on health habits, good manners, civics, domestic science, and arts and crafts. The faculty consisted of one paid teacher, three volunteers, and several visiting teachers from Winthrop College and the community. Seventeen girls were registered as boarding students for the day school, and nineteen men attended night classes.

The experimental school proved very successful. The following year, larger quarters were sought, and since the state could pay only for teachers, additional means of financing were required. Cooperating with the State Department of Education, Lander College granted use of its facilities, the Methodist Conference and the Baptist Convention each contributed \$300.00 toward operational expenses, and a wide range of supporters of adult education supplied scholarship aid. The mills were especially cooperative, sending students as well as scholarships. Eighty-nine women and girls, ranging in age from 14 to 51, and representing thirteen counties, attended the 1922 school. There was no school held for the men, because the academy at Gross, offered by the Baptist Convention, had burned.

Erskine College supplied the facilities for the men's sessions from 1923 through 1930. The girls' sessions continued at Lander through 1924, located at Anderson College in 1925, 1926, and 1927, and moved to the Women's College at Due West for the sessions of 1928, 1929, and 1930. In 1931 the schools were consolidated at Clemson College.

In 1931, with the support of \$10,000.00 grant from the Carnegie Foundation, a study was made in "The Learning Ability of Adults". Directed by Dr. W. S. Gray, Dean of Educations, Chicago University, and Dr. J. W. Tilton of Yale University, this study, with the use of standardized tests, indicated that adults learn three to nine times faster than children. That year, for the first time, the Opportunity School awarded seventh grade certificates. Fifty-two students received them.

The school was held at Clemson College from 1931 through 1942, at which time it had to be moved because of war conditions. It was held at Lander in 1943 and 1944, and at Columbia College in 1945.

A new era for adult education began in the early 1940's. In 1941, two Opportunity School students were awarded high school diplomas by an accredited high school which they had not attended. These diplomas were awarded on the basis of achievement scores on standardized tests administered by the Opportunity School, and are believed to be the first diplomas in the state to be awarded on a basis other than number of units earned. In 1942, the high school testing service was established by the State Department of Education. Two Opportunity School students were the first to earn high school certificates under this program, which has continued to be a boon to those who for a variety of reasons are unable to complete their formal schooling.

These one-month terms of the Opportunity School held over a period of twenty-five years had clearly shown the need for a permanent year-round school. This need was further emphasized by returning World War II veterans who were unable to take advantage of the education benefits of the G. I. bill because there was no boarding institution in South Carolina offering general education for adults on the elementary and secondary levels. Recognizing the pressing need, the legislature in 1946 granted the request of the State Department of Education for an appropriation to operate the Opportunity School on a year-round basis. Through the efforts of many people, 998 acres and some 200 buildings of the de-activated Columbia Army Air Base were acquired by quit claim deed through the War Assets Administration for the joint use of the Opportunity School and Trade School on a ten-year probationary basis. The school's first session in this permanent home opened January 2, 1947.

Students and staff worked closely together in a pioneer spirit in making the barracks type buildings into an attractive facility. The educational program was developed and expanded to accommodate commuting day and evening students in addition to the boarding students. Special attention was given to the needs of veterans and their families; programs were designed to teach practical arts in everyday living, as well as academics.

Fully satisfied with its utilization, the Federal Government released the property to the South Carolina Budget and Control Board in 1956. In a reallocation of the property several years later, the Budget and Control Board delineated 107 acres as the Opportunity School campus.

By a legislative act in 1957, the South Carolina Opportunity School was declared a body politic and placed under the management and control of a Board of Trustees.

Modern facilities have replaced the temporary Air Base buildings which served over twenty years. Revising and expanding its programs to meet changing needs, in a home-like atmosphere the Opportunity School continues its mission of teaching adults.



GOSSETT MILLS .

ANDERSON, S. C.
Williamston, S. C. June 27th 1929.

Mr. J. D. Hill,
Opportunity School,
Due West, S. C.

Dear Mr. Hill:-

I wish I had the time to answer your letter of the 25th as fully as I would like to do so, but as I am leaving my office in a few moments to be gone for several days I will have to be very brief.

I can't say that my business career has been guided or influenced by any one thing unless it was the will to succeed.

Having been left an orphan boy and thrown on my own resources in my early youth I soon realized that if I ever amounted to anything in life it would be through my own efforts. I had no money nor education, but I had an indomitable will - to work, to save and to strive. The carrying out of this resolution has brought me safely to my present position in the business world. The same resolution, if properly applied, will make you and your associates in the Opportunity School successful and honorable citizens.

With kind regards and best wishes for all of our boys

Sincerely,

James P. Gossett

The Opportunity School 1931

During the summer of 1931 the Opportunity School was in session on the campuses of Clemson College and Seneca Junior College for adults of limited education. The chief purposes of the school were to determine critically and objectively within limits, which will be defined later, first, the progress of adults of limited education when favorable conditions for learning are provided, and second, the limitations of the instruction given for students of different levels of capacity and varying amounts of achievement in the fundamental tools of learning. Three levels of adult education were selected for study, namely, the initial stage in which specific effort was made to attain functioning literacy, the early literate period in which common needs predominate, and the later stage in which specialized curriculums were essential.

A series of four specific aims was adopted in order to carry out the major purpose of this summer school. They may be described as follows: (1) to determine the social, economic and educational status of the students at the time of enrollment; (2) to measure the probable learning capacity of each student; (3) to classify the students into more or less homogeneous classes in order that instruction might be adapted to their needs; (4) to determine the progress and difficulty of students during the term in the fundamental subjects taught, namely, reading, arithmetic, writing and spelling; (5) to study the relation between individual progress in such items as age, sex and intelligence; (6) to study the changes in attitudes and habits of students through various informal types of training given in the dining room, during recreation periods and in connection with auditorium programs, special lectures, concerts and religious services.

Eligibility was determined on the following basis: low or no schooling, good health, good moral character, a desire to learn and perseverance. The Opportunity School for the white adult was held at Clemson State Agricultural College, Calhoun, South Carolina, between July 23rd and August 22nd, 1931. In all there were 233 students. The Opportunity School for Negro students was held at Seneca Junior College, Seneca, South Carolina. The opening and closing dates of this school were the same as those for Clemson College. Fifty-five students were admitted, many of whom were unable to read with any degree of independence.

Much information concerning social and economic background of students and their school history was secured prior to and at the time of registration. Many types of very valuable instruction could have been given during the term, but in order to study carefully the progress and difficulties of illiterate and near-illiterate adult students in the so-called fundamental school subjects, formal instruction, with two experimental groups, was limited largely to reading, arithmetic, writing and spelling. Supplementing the formal instruction was an elaborate program of informal training of great value to all students.

A testing program was organized to serve three purposes.

(1) To supplement the descriptions of the student groups by providing objective evidence of the capacity and educational status of each group.

(2) To furnish a more accurate basis of classification than the registration cards provided. And (3) to give initial scores with which to compare final scores for the computation of gains or progress.

On Saturday July the 25th, the students were classified into sections after the reading and intelligence tests had been scored. The students were classified into groups of from twelve to twenty students on the basis of the silent reading scores. No effort was made to have the classes correspond to public school grades.

The curriculum for the adult schools as especially for the Opportunity School has been built, first to promote the mastery of the mechanics of learning through the use of inspirational methods, and second, to present essential subject matter organized around the needs of everyday life. With this age limit and the aims referred to in mind, it has been possible to work towards the realization of the objective defined by James E. Russell, namely, "to inspire grown-ups to be something more than they are now and to do their work better than they do it now."

The specific aims of teaching reading to total illiterates are (1) to deepen interest in the reading; (2) to cultivate a thoughtful reading attitude and to lay the foundation of good habits of interpreting the meaning of what is read; (3) to develop a sight vocabulary of 150 words or more of high frequency in adult reading material; (4) to develop a fair degree of fluency in reading simple material either orally or silently; (5) to direct attention to the elements of words as a first step in developing accuracy and independence in word recognition; (6) to establish the habit of reading signs, notices and directions as they are encountered in daily life.

In order to provide a variety of reading experiences, six types of reading activities were used during the month. (1) Incidental reading; (2) practice in reading directions and signs; (3) reading based on familiar experiences; (4) reading from basal books; (5) newspaper reading; and (6) independent reading by students.

Interests in reading were stimulated and much valuable practice provided through incidental means as follows: (1) posters in the classroom; (2) simple announcements and directions; (3) exhibits of forms; (4) important signs and directions.

For basal instruction in reading the text Day by Day at Clemson was used. Means of teaching arithmetic to the students were to familiarize them with the fundamental facts of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division involving integers, and to develop as much skill as possible in the solution of problems that arise in the everyday lives of the students.

On account of the close relationship between handwriting, written expression and spelling, these three subjects were correlated as closely as possible. The specific aims for the month were (1) to teach students to spell correctly and to write legibly the words they use in their written expression; (2) to teach the correct letter forms, capitals and small letters and the difficult combinations of certain letters; (3) to spell correctly and to write legibly their names, the names of their home county and state; (4) to write the salutation, body and ending of a very short letter; (5) to write the spelling words suggested in the manual for teachers of adult illiterates.

The aim of the English courses was to point out and correct the errors of spoken and written English common to the group. In arithmetic the aim was to secure as far as possible mastery of the processes useful in the daily lives of students. Every effort was made in spelling, vocabulary ability and handwriting classes to meet the actual needs of the student.

Since many of the Opportunity School students were actual or potential homemakers, the home economics classes were very popular. These classes were organized around the needs and interests of a simple home. Due to the time element, only three phases of homemaking were possible during the summer. They were sewing, cooking and home furnishing and decoration. The aims in the sewing classes were to give an understanding of the basic steps in sewing, to point out characteristics of appropriate dress and to study simple home decoration.

Realizing that the results of informal training and guidance are often quite as valuable as those of regular classroom instruction, a rich and varied program of informal instruction and training was organized to provide for the social, moral and personal needs of the students. One of the chief problems encountered in carrying out such a program effectively was to awaken new interest among the students and to create a demand for finer and more wholesome habits of living. The faculty was agreed that one of the essential functions of the Opportunity School was to teach the wise use of leisure, the amenities of life, the value of acquiring an open mind and appreciation of the good and the beautiful, and the need of dependability, punctuality and civic responsibility.

The unit of measurement used in expressing the gains in achievement is the normal progress made by children during one school month. The Seneca experimental group made an average of 6/10 of a month of progress in silent reading, 2 9/10 months of progress in handwriting, 9/10 of a month of progress in arithmetic, 1 and 2 months of progress in spelling, and an average gain of 1 1/10 month in all for the oral reading. The Clemson group made an average gain in all areas of 9 7/10 months.

The students had some reactions to the summer school. One of the men in the beginner's group wrote: "I want to come back next year and want to know if you can make arrangements for me to bring my wife with me." A brother closes his letter this way: "It would be hard for me to estimate the amount of benefit it was to me. Life seems changed altogether for me. I want to go to Clemson again, but I have brothers and sisters who are due a change too." A young woman and mother of three children wrote: "I often wish I could be in an Opportunity School for a year. It would do me so much good. Here at home I have so many things to do that I do not find time to study but very little. Please send me Miss Fair's address. I have thought of her so often when using the recipes she gave me. I thank you many times for insisting that I take cooking. I received more from that course than any other one."

ALUMNA STORY

LAURA STRINGFIELD BARKLEY AT WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL FROM BATH, SOUTH CAROLINA

1934 - 1942

One July morning in 1934, a very hot Saturday, I left home, my first time alone or away from home on a journey to Clemson College in Clemson, South Carolina. We were to be picked up at the Courthouse in Aiken by a bus from Charleston. The bus was picking up young girls and boys in various counties who had been selected to attend the South Carolina Opportunity School founded by Miss Wil Lou Gray to help young people continue their education. For various reasons, they had had to drop out of school but still wanted to further their education. Night schools had already been in progress for many years but Miss Gray felt they needed more than just night school so in 1921, she held her first school for girls at Tamassa, owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution. On the way to Aiken, the bus broke down and we had a long wait. Mrs. Minnie Kennedy was Aiken County's Adult Education Supervisor and with the help of friends they managed to get some sandwiches and drinks. It was late afternoon when we arrived tired and hot and it was time for dinner. (Supper for most of us.) We were met by Miss Gray and as long as I live I will never forget the woman who changed my future. She hurried us to sign in, get our room assignment and hurry to dinning room. I have never seen such a huge dinning room with so many tables all covered with snow-white tablecloths. For a month this was where we would gather for our three meals a day...eight to a table, seven students and a host or hostess. To many of us every meal was a banquet. We were told our first rule...Anyone arriving after doors were closed wasn't admitted. You can be sure that's one rule everyone obeyed. We spent our first Saturday getting settled and going to Church on Sunday. During the summer with so many students gone home as well as faculty services was held at a different church in the town of Clemson. My first Sunday there we attended the Methodist Church, which I was well acquainted with. Another Sunday requirement was there was a period after dinner for two hours named Quiet Hour, a time to rest and write our families. Many friendships were formed that month and I'm happy to say, I still have several I keep in touch with. On our first school day we were given an achievement test and after grading we placed in a level that we required...not as a certain grade. Afternoons, we also had the opportunity to choose some type extra training for a special type job or hobby. I took typing two summers as I felt it may be the most rewarding but there has been many times I wished I had taken the Home Economics class that taught how to make slip covers for couches and chairs! My the money I could have saved.

We had the most dedicated teachers and they didn't mind spending extra time with you when you didn't quite understand. I had one of the best English teachers that could make it so easy. A few years later, two in fact, I scored a level high enough that Miss Gray got permission from the Langley-Bath High School Principal to let me enter the 8th grade where I took math, English-Literature, and 10th grade commercial which included typing and short hand. The second year I took 9th grade subjects and completed my commercial courses in typing and short hand, in 11th grade. That was long before the 12th grade was added. I worked awhile, then married a fine young man I had been seeing from North Carolina since the fall of 1934, my first year to attend the Opportunity School.

This was in January of 1938, I was married. I've always been thankful that my chance to go to Opportunity School and the encouragement I got to fulfill my dream from a male teacher and especially Miss Gray and her secretary and a few others. I don't know what the future would have held for me. I didn't know that I would have just a short while to be so happy being a wife, then a mother of a son and just five months after his birth his Dad was killed in an accident (March 25, 1938) and it was almost more than I could endure when I thought of how long I spent going back to school and the happiness I missed being a wife and mother. Once again Opportunity School and Miss Gray came to my rescue. I moved back home and when my son was almost two, I was given a scholarship. My Papa who was never too well even though he was determined I go back to school, insisted that he and mama and my sisters could take care of Billy. So in the summer of 1940, I went back and it wasn't easy but I made it. Mama came up and brought him to see me for a weekend...so that made it easier. The following summer, somehow Miss Gray and a couple of organizations got scholarships for my 3 younger sisters to come...Papa's health had become very bad but he was determined we all get as much education as we could. We still were trying to overcome the lingering economic conditions from the great depression. But many laws that were passed during the Roosevelt Administration helped many to take part in various educational projects I had only been back to Clemson as short while when we got word Papa had become very ill. It so happened a girl from Bath, South Carolina had gone that summer and here mother had come to see her. I insisted the others stay and I would come home since it would have been too crowded for the four of us. [THE FOUR STRINGFIELD SISTERS WERE: LAURA STRINGFIELD BARKLEY, HAZEL STRINGFIELD, FRANCES STRINGFIELD WILLARD AND WILHELMINA STRINGFIELD HOLLAND. ALL SISTERS LIVED IN BATH, SOUTH CAROLINA THROUGH THEIR RETIREMENT AND SUBSEQUENT DEATHS. THEY ALSO ALL ATTENDED CLEMSON COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL TOGETHER] Papa was so disappointed that I came home but I knew I was needed and that I still had my chance to reach my goal. There was no one working in our family but God provided for us...we were still living in that period of life that neighbors were neighbors and shared with others. About two weeks before he quietly left us, a friend finally was able to hire my two younger sisters in one of our local mills. Papa was 58 years of age September 1st being born pre-mature September 1st, 1886, the night or day of the great earthquake in Charleston, South Carolina. He left us October 22nd, 1942, one of those beautiful bright blue October afternoons. The next summer I returned to Clemson and that was when Miss Gray arranged for several students stand a special achievement test for a high school certificate. As well as I remember there were three women and one male who took the test. Only two passed...Mrs. Eugenia Betchler [Mrs. Eugene Betchler] from West Columbia (the Edmund Hwy area) and me. (FIRST TWO PEOPLE IN THE STATE TO PASS THE GED EXAM....BOTH PREPPED AT THE WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL AS STUDENTS) It was sort of ironic but we were both widows, with a young child. The certificate was issued through the Extension Service of the University of South Carolina. I'll always remember and be grateful to Miss Mary Major who paid my fee to stand the exam. I felt a deep sadness when I learned of her death recently. She had been at the Oaks...United Methodist Home in Orangeburg and due to my ill health, I never was able to visit her or attend her service. Our friendship last over a period of fifty seven years. In 1943, I was employed as Secretary to Personnel Manager with Seminole Mills in Clearwater. In 1946, a year after my mother's death at age 58, I worked for another year then I became ill and was unable to work for

several years. I had been able to help my sister Hazel attend two years of Junior College now known as Spartanburg Junior College and she worked in the Office of Bath Mills as Cost Accountant and she took care of me and my son till November 1, 1950 when I was hired as a part time Postal Clerk. In 1956 the Postmaster retired and I was offered the job as Postmaster but I refused but did agree to fill the job until a replacement...I held this job till May 1956, then was converted back to clerk, with Civil Service benefits. I worked almost 30 years, retiring June 13, 1990. I will forever be thankful for having the chance to attend Opportunity School, and for our beloved Miss Wil Lou, who became my mentor and friend. I hope our State of South Carolina will never let her memory or part she played in helping many thousands of young men and women become educated and successful in life.

By

LAURA S. BARKLEY

**Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Student
1934 Through 1942**

**SUBMITTED BY GEORGE M. SMITH
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
WEST CAMPUS ROAD
WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29170**

STEPS IN OBTAINING THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL PROPERTY

It was soon seen, after the experimental session of the first Opportunity School in 1921 at Tamasee, followed by summer sessions from 1922-1945 at the various colleges that there was great need for a year-round Opportunity School located in its own home. Therefore, when the army was being de-activated, it seemed the propitious time to secure a location for a permanent home. A survey was made of the Florence, Camden, Greenville, and Columbia airports. It was decided that the Columbia Army Air Base would admirably meet the need. Below are given the steps taken which resulted in having the 998 acres and 200-odd buildings turned over to the State of South Carolina for an Opportunity School and a Trade School.

December 16, 1945: Alumni Meeting, Washington Street Methodist Church, resulting in the following resolution:

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Opportunity School Alumni Association urges the establishment of two permanent State-wide Opportunity Schools (one for whites, one for Negroes) as living memorial to South Carolina servicemen. The doors should always be open to adults who cannot attend day school or college but who feel the need for further training and inspiration in order to prepare them to meet the changing needs of the present time. The organization should be such that students might attend with their families one month or as long as they desire. The course of study should be comprehensive, ranging from primary through secondary level and should include both general and vocational subjects."

Spring, 1946: Opportunity School Alumni and friends appeared before Senate Finance Committee, requesting appropriation of \$50,000. The appropriation granted was for \$52,000.

February 21, 1946: Letter from Miss Wil Lou Gray to C. E. Jones, asking that he cooperate with State Department in securing hospital area of Columbia Army Air Base for Opportunity School.

March 15, 1946: Letter, Dr. Poole to Mr. Hope: "I regret it will be impossible for Clemson to open its doors this summer to the Opportunity School."

April 30, 1946: Letter, Mr. Hope to Senator Johnson: "The 1946 General Assembly ...appropriated \$52,000 toward a permanent Opportunity School. This appropriation was made with the idea that Miss Wil Lou Gray would secure a portion of the plant of the CAAB or some similar facility. Hence, I am urging you to use your influence to see that this property which is needed by the Opportunity School be turned over to the State. This will in no way conflict with the portion of the air base property desired by Lexington County."

May 2, 1946: Reply, Senator Johnson to Mr. Hope: "I am greatly interested in the Opportunity School, therefore, will be glad to help you in every way possible here in Washington."

May 21, 1946: Letter, John J. O'Brien to Senator Maybank: "It would be advisable...for Mr. Hope to file with the Institutional Division, Office of Real Property Disposal, War Assets Administration, exhibits delineating the portion of the base required by the Department of Education and also setting out in brief: the purpose for which the property is to be used, etc."

June 6, 1946: Letter, Robert Whittet, Director, Institutional Division, Office of Real Property Disposal, to General Holmes B. Springs: "This is in reference to your letter of May 22 concerning possibilities of the State of S. C. Department of Education obtaining a portion of the CAAB...The CAAB has not formally been declared surplus...When the property has been transferred to the Administration, full consideration will be given to the application from the Department of Education."

June 8, 1946: Mr. Hope to John J. O'Brien, Deputy Administrator, Office of Real Property Disposal, War Assets Administration: "Enclosed I am sending you a request that the northern portion of the CAAB be turned over to the State Department of Education for the establishment of an Opportunity School and auxiliary projects under the direction of the State of South Carolina...Miss Wil Lou Gray, a member of my staff who has been charged with the responsibility of directing the Opportunity School, will call you in a few days."

June 10, 1946: Telegram, Ransome J. Williams to Senator Maybank: "State Department application for Columbia Army Air Base forwarded to War Assets Administration June 8. Urge that you push this request."

June 12, 1946: Attached is a copy of the application and a set of the supporting letters written by C. E. Jones, Attorney-in-Fact for Lexington County; General Holmes B. Springs, State Director, Selective Service; John C. B. Smith; A. L. M. Wiggins, then Under-Secretary, U. S. Treasury; B. R. Turner, Supervisor of Industrial Education; W. H. Ward, Director, University Extension; Dr. Hilla Sheriff, State Board of Health; J. B. Williamson, Chief Highway Commissioner; Dr. William S. Gray, University of Chicago.

June 12, 1946: Letter, Broome, Federal Public Housing Administration, to Congressman Riley: "Pursuant your phone June 12, this office will defer action in allocating facilities from CAAB pending visit next week by Miss Wil Lou Gray, S. C. Opportunity School."

June 12, 1946: Miss Gray called on Mr. O'Brien, and received a sympathetic hearing. Mr. Frazer, who handled our papers, was in thorough accord with our request.

June 14, 1946: Telegram, Senator Johnson to John J. Broome, FPHA: "Miss Wil Lou Gray, Superintendent of Adult Education for South Carolina, will be in Atlanta Wednesday or Thursday to confer with you regarding possible use of CAAB for housing Opportunity School students. Will appreciate any courtesies or assistance you may render."

June 14, 1946: Letter, Robert Whittet to Mr. Hope: "The application was discussed in detail with Miss Wil Lou Gray of your office...and Miss Gray was advised to see the Federal Public Housing Administration representatives in Atlanta, Georgia, concerning veterans' housing portion of the request and to ascertain whether or not there were any other conflicts with other priority holders on use of the hospital area...We were informally advised by the Public Health Service on June 12 that the S. C. Board of Health is requesting the hospital area for use as a rapid treatment center for venereal diseases. In view of apparent conflict of interests we will hold your application in abeyance until we hear further from you."

June 19, 1946: C. E. Jones to WAA: "Representing Lexington County...I have been conferring with the State Department of Education and feel sure that any arrangements they make toward taking over from the Government for educational purposes certain portions of what is known as CAAB can be worked out satisfactorily with them as far as the County is concerned."

June 21, 1946: Letter, Mr. Hope to Mr. Whittet: "Thank you for your letter and for the courteous hearing which Miss Gray tells me was given by your office when she presented the State's application for the northern portion of the CAAB to be used for the Opportunity School and auxiliary projects.

"I sent Miss Gray to Atlanta yesterday for a conference with Mr. Broome of the FPFA and am pleased to have her report this morning that the buildings needed for our project are being turned back to the WAA: so that hurdle is no longer in the way. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Mr. Broome in order that you might see that we wish to clear the way for no further conflicts or requests.

"You will notice that we have asked for all land shown in the plat since the Opportunity School plans to train its students not only in classroom but through growing crops, raising poultry, through shop work and through laboratory procedures; therefore, much land will be needed...

"I was distressed to hear that there was a conflicting request from this State. I note from your letter that you say it was informal. We did not put our request in until we were told that the property had been refused by the Board of Health earlier in the year. However, their request had been caused by fire and we knew nothing of it until Miss Gray reached Washington in June. We hope to have a conference next week in regard to the conflict and hope everything can be ironed out to the satisfaction of all parties...

"We are in desperate need for an immediate place in order that we might have our regular session in August; hence, can you grant us interim occupancy which would make it possible for us to acquire surplus property..."

June 22, 1946: Letter, Mr. Hope to Mr. J. P. Broome, FPFA, Atlanta, Georgia: "In order that you might have on file a definite statement of all property requested by the State Department of Education for the Opportunity School, I am listing the following:

Buildings numbered 51, 53, 54
Buildings numbered 600 through 641
Building numbered 751...

"In addition to the above the State Department is asking for all buildings on the land save those needed by the FPFA. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the courteous attention given Miss Gray on Thursday."

June 24, 1946: Letter, John P. Broome to Miss Gray: "Pursuant to your visit to this office on June 20, we mailed to our Central Office in Washington on June 22 our recommendation that the buildings comprising the hospital area of the Lexington County Air Base be released by the FPFA for use on site of the South Carolina Opportunity School."

June 25, 1946: Dr. Ben Wyman, State Health Officer, to Mr. Hope: "On account of the prior application of the State Department of Education for use of the hospital facilities of the CAAB, and your urgency and need for such facilities, the State Board of Health feels that as you have a prior right by reason of this earlier application and effort, we must therefore notify the Public Health service and the WAA that the State Board of Health is withdrawing its application."

June 27, 1946: Telegram, Senator Johnson to Mr. Hope: "Discussed Army Air Base question with Mr. Whittet today--all indications are that hospital facilities will be released for your use within two or three days. Will continue efforts..."

June 27, 1946: Letter, Governor Williams to Robert Whittet: "FPHA, Atlanta Office, has released buildings requested by South Carolina Department of Education for Opportunity School, to War Assets Administration. State Board of Health has withdrawn request. All conflicts cleared. Urging quick action on request of Education Department..."

June 27, 1946: Letter, James F. Miles to Miss Gray: "Get ready to move into the CAAB. It is only a matter of time now before the title passes. I spent all of last evening and this morning and part of the afternoon trying to push the release through today."

June 28, 1946: Telegram, Senator Maybank to Miss Gray: "Just talked with Mr. W. T. Frazer, War Assets Administration, who advises they are doing everything possible to have property Columbia Air Base transferred to the State Department of Education for Opportunity School. Will advise fully as soon as matter is cleared here."

June 28, 1946: Letter, Miss Gray to Senator Johnson: "Imagine my delight last night when I went home to be told that the 6:30 news had carried an item from Washington stating that in all probability the Columbia Army Air Base would be turned over in a few days to the State Department of Education for use of the Opportunity School. I realized at once that if this was done so quickly it would be due to the manner in which you, Senator Maybank, Congressman Riley and those in your office had pushed this request."

July 2, 1946: Telegram, Mr. Whittet to Mr. Hope: "War Department being requested to issue revocable permit to South Carolina State Board of Education covering hospital buildings 644 through 751 of CAAB for use of Opportunity School..."

July 2, 1946: Letter, William B. Jones, Assistant Chief, Operation Section Management and Disposal Branch, Real Estate Division, to South Carolina Board of Education: "War Assets Administration has approved the Right of Entry in hereby granted to South Carolina Board of Education to use and occupy 49 hospital buildings...pending issuance of a formal license by this office..."

July 2, 1946: The State newspaper: "The former hospital area at the Columbia, S. C., Army Air Base was made available officially today to house an 'opportunity school' where adults can be taught to read and write while doing part-time work. The War Department telegraphed its Atlanta headquarters to grant a right-of-entry permit to the State Department of Education and revoke a previous permit issued to the State Health Department, which had proposed to operate a venereal disease clinic at the Hospital..."

July 9, 1946: Telegram, Senator Maybank to Mr. Hope: "Just advised by War Department that they have been authorized to issue Interim Permit covering hospital buildings on base."

September 5, 1946: Telegram, Senator Maybank to Miss Gray: "Have communicated with Mr. Frazer, War Assets, and please be assured he fully understands your wishes and mind."

September 9, 1946: Letter, Miss Gray to Mr. Whittet:

When we realized in the spring that there were so many hurdles to make in securing occupancy for the entire area we needed, we asked that we be given entrance to the hospital area only, for that afforded sufficient accommodations for our summer program. However, it was impossible to get the plant ready for the school in August since we could not secure equipment and supplies. Therefore, now we would very much like to have the entire area requested turned over to us immediately so that we could plan for the complete program. If we could be assured of the entire plant it would be much easier for us to make the necessary changes. I filed with you a small map. I am enclosing another copy of our request, along with a larger map delineating the purposes for which each area will be used. A glance at this will show the scope of the project, which, you understand, is a long range program. To carry out the plans it will be necessary eventually to get more land than now comprises the area requested.

September 20, 1946: Letter, Mr. Whittet to Miss Gray: "This is in reference to your letter of September 9 concerning your interest in obtaining a portion of the Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina, for use as an Opportunity School.

"The non-airport portion of the Columbia Army Air Base has not yet been classified as to its highest and best use for assignment to a disposal agency, and therefore we are unable to take any final action on your request until classification and assignment have taken place.

"In the meantime, however, we have requested the U. S. Office of Education to make a survey and report on your proposed program in order that we may have the advise of that agency. We will also try to consummate other preliminary arrangements.

"In reviewing your proposal, it occurs to us that the amount of land being requested is rather large for your type of institution and that the costs of operation and maintenance may be beyond the funds made available for the Opportunity School. It is requested that you explain in more detail the manner in which the larger land areas would be used and what budgetary arrangements have been made. It is not the desire of this office to restrict the activities of your school but rather to see that the area requested is within your legitimate needs and financial ability."

October 10, 1946: Letter, Miss Gray to Mr. Whittet: "I trust that by now you have received the report of the United States Office of Education and that this has explained to you the need for land in our situation. The school plans an equal balance of Agriculture and Trade Education. In addition to the Trade and Industries Area there will be much need for a large acreage in order that there might be ample land on which the pupils can do experimental farming as well as produce food for the school. You understand, we are catering to a low income group. In order to reduce the living expenses and at the same time provide labor for the students we are hoping to immediately raise much of our produce as well as poultry and livestock. As soon as possible there will be developed a dairy and orchards. Therefore, you can readily understand the need for land in this set up. We have been unusually fortunate in securing a Clemson graduate, a captain just returned from the Pacific theater of war who, notwithstanding the fact that the land is poor, sees possibilities in its development. Since much of the land in South Carolina is poor, we have here an opportunity to do a fine piece of experimental demonstration teaching. I feel our school is quite fortunate in securing an instructor who accepts the challenge of building up such land. I have just talked over the need for land with him. He assures me that he will need the entire acreage requested in order to carry out the plans he is now formulating for his group."

October 22, 1946: Letter, Mr. Whittet, to Miss Gray: "This is in reference to your letter of October 10, 1946, in reply to our letter of September 20, concerning your application for acquisition of a portion of the Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina.

"It is our understanding that Mr. Knuckles of the Charlotte WAA Office will visit the Columbia Army Air Base within the next few days, and he will discuss the need for specific information as to the number of acres and the buildings that are to be included in your application. It is necessary that the buildings be separated by identifying numbers in order to eliminate those that you had originally intended to salvage for future use of building materials.

"We are requesting the Office of General Disposal to freeze the list of equipment attached to your letter of October 10, so that consideration may be given to an intact transfer when the final decision is made on your application.

"Following receipt of the information from Mr. Knuckles, we will request that an appraisal be made of the property involved in order that we may make our recommendation to the Real Property Disposal Board."

October 23, 1946: Mr. Hope signed a license, revocable at will...by the Secretary of War, for a period beginning July 2, 1946 and ending July 1, 1951, for the use by the Opportunity School, of the hospital area. See Exhibit A, War Department license, Conditions.

November 5, 1946: Letter, Miss Gray to Mr. Whittet: "...Mr. Frazier spent some time in discussing our application and according to his instructions I am itemizing on attached sheets the buildings by number and our proposal for their use. I have discussed the use of these buildings with the men on our staff and they state that they can be put to immediate use in our instructional program. To illustrate, instead of building brooder houses for chickens which we wish immediately to start, the ordnance area is admirably adapted for use in this project; the same is true of the Post Engineer shops where we can set up our Trade School as soon as we get possession."

November 25, 1946: Letter, Mr. Whittet to Miss Gray: "This is in reference to your letter of November 5, 1946, to which was attached itemization of buildings desired for use by the South Carolina Department of Education, in connection with the Opportunity School at the Columbia Army Air Base. "While the information contained in your letter clarifies the buildings and equipment to be included in your application, we have still not received the necessary data in identifying the land involved. The Regional Office in Charlotte has been requested to furnish us with this information.

"Pursuant to your telephonic request to Mr. Frazier, of this office, an interim permit will be issued covering buildings No. 1106, 1107, 1110 and 1111, for use in the poultry program being conducted by the Opportunity School."

March 29, 1947: Letter, Miss Gray to Mr. Whittet: "At last I understand the War Assets is about ready to make final disposal of the Columbia Army Air Base property. On March 18, 1947, we sent in a revised application for the property for the Opportunity School Adult Education Center in South Carolina. This revised request was made necessary because we found we could use to advantage the Powder Magazine Area west of Platt Springs Road for general and livestock farming. As stated in our application, one of the major phases of the over-all adult education program will be the Opportunity School where we hope to emphasize the need for more intelligent use of land. The property being requested is mostly marginal, but fortunately we have a young agriculturist who sees in it an opportunity to demonstrate to the surrounding community and students from various parts of the state how, with the proper treatment, poor land can be turned, over a period of years, into good land. Since South Carolina has much land of this type we can think of no better way to help raise the level of living in this state than to turn a liability into an asset."

September 3, 1947: Quit claim deed for 998.03 was given the State. For provision, see page 2 of letter.

June 8, 1951: Letter, Mr. Anderson to Mr. Carson: "In regard to land use, it has been our intention to do some experimental work with this type of land and we wished to use it as a laboratory as a demonstration of what could be done with poor land. Expert advice, which we have sought and received, has been almost unanimous in recommending reforestation and poultry. We have been engaged in the poultry business from the first and we have reforested several acres and propose to reforest other land as rapidly as possible. It is our intention to utilize the open land around the chicken farm for grazing purposes for poultry and hogs. The open land near the school building itself has been used for a garden and will continue to be so used. Some pecan trees have been started and others will be added annually.

"Building an institution such as the Opportunity School cannot be accomplished all at once and to control the environment is most desirable and necessary, therefore, when making the request for the land a long range program was planned. It has been the School's policy to make some improvement each year but it was felt that the first expenditures should be made on the buildings which required much repair, many needing to be covered and weatherboarded if they were to be saved. The immediate school campus then came in for much attention. Now we are ready to devote time and money to the long range program originally planned with the aim of using the land as a laboratory, of providing a means of work by which the students could earn part or all of their expenses, and of making the institution partially self-supporting."

June 20, 1953: Federal Government released 2.05 acres from original grant to City of Columbia for Wilbur Wright Homes, for a consideration paid to the State of \$516.60 and a lease by the City of Columbia to the State of certain property adjoining the Opportunity School.

December 10, 1954: Received

"UTILIZATION REPORT OF PROPERTY LOCATED
AT COLUMBIA AIR BASE, COLUMBIA, SOUTH
CAROLINA, TRANSFERRED TO THE STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA FOR USE OF THE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Buildings: 105

Name of Institution:
The Opportunity School
West Columbia, S. C.

Land: Approximately 998.03 Acres

Date of Survey:
December 2, 1954"

A detailed, five-page report followed, ending with: "It is believed that the operation of this school in many of its phases reflects one of the best cases of utilization of Surplus Government property."

September 4, 1956: DEED OF RELEASE states: "WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Party of the Second Part, as expressed in a resolution of the Budget and Control Board duly approved on March 29, 1956, that the United States of America release the covenants, conditions, restrictions and reservations contained in the Quitclaim Deed of September 3, 1947, with respect to the remainder of the land and improvement not released by the deed of June 20, 1953, and to that end the Party of the Second Part proposes to pay to the United States of America the sum of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-four and 34/100 (\$9,374.34) Dollars, the determined

fair value of the remaining land and improvement, in consideration of the abrogation of said conditions subsequent contained in the Quitclaim Deed of September 3, 1947, and

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, subject to the disapproval of the Administrator of General Services Administration within thirty (30) days of notice to him, to grant releases from any of the terms and conditions contained in instruments by which property was transferred for educational purposes, provided the release will not prevent accomplishment of the purpose for which the property was transferred; provided further, that any such release may be granted on such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare deems necessary to protect or advance the interests of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, acting by and through the Regional Director, Region IV, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, has determined that the release of certain covenants, conditions, restrictions and reservations contained in the Quitclaim Deed will not prevent accomplishment of the purpose for which such property was so transferred, and is desirous of releasing the Party of the Second Part from the obligations of the conditions subsequent contained in the Quitclaim Deed upon the terms and conditions herein-after enumerated, and..."

September 28, 1956: State of South Carolina deeded to Brookland-Cayce School District No. 2 of Lexington County, its successors and assigns, a part of the property conveyed to the State of South Carolina in DeedBook 6-0, page 2, (conveying 53.87 acres) for a consideration of \$4500.

January 9, 1957: The Governor, in his opening speech to the General Assembly, stated: "For over 35 years the South Carolina Opportunity School has taken a highly important role in the educational system of this state, giving nearly 10,000 South Carolina citizens a "second chance" for elementary and secondary education missed during youth. In the beginning the Opportunity School was a one-month summer enterprise, helping industrial and farm workers to realize educational ambitions which they had been denied by various pressures, principally economic.

"For more than 10 years the Opportunity School has had a permanent location which was acquired through the War Assets Administration and which has now become the property of South Carolina.

"I have examined carefully the accomplishments of the South Carolina Opportunity School and have weighed these accomplishments against the continuing need for the school. As a result of this study I am convinced that the South Carolina Opportunity School should now take its place among the other proud and effective educational institutions of South Carolina as an independent, self-perpetuating facility governed by a board of trustees.

"I urge the General Assembly to enact legislation which will make the Opportunity School of South Carolina a self-governing, permanent part of our educational system, thus insuring that the equality of educational opportunity the school has provided for 35 years will continue to enhance the welfare of our citizens."

June 13, 1957: The South Carolina Opportunity School.

The fourth paragraph of the preamble of this Act no. 34, 1957 Acts, recites:

"Whereas, on the third day of September, 1947, the United States Government, through the War Assets Administration, conveyed to the State of South Carolina nine hundred and ninety-eight and three one hundredths acres, more or less, to be used for a multiple educational institution know as the 'South Carolina Opportunity School' and the 'South Carolina Trade School'; and..."

The seventh paragraph of the preamble of this Act no. 34, 1957

Acts, recites:

"Whereas, since 1947, the South Carolina Opportunity School has occupied the property conveyed by the War Assets Administration, jointly with the South Carolina Trade School. Now--therefore"

"Section 1 of the Above Act provides:

"Section 1. S. C. Opportunity School authorized--locations--purpose. The South Carolina Opportunity School is hereby authorized and shall be located in Lexington County on the property formerly occupied by the Army Air Force and known as the Columbia Air Base, which property the State of South Carolina received by the quit-claim deed on September, 1947, for the joint use of the South Carolina Opportunity School and the South Carolina Trade School." etc.

Thus ended the efforts of many people, over a period of eleven years, to secure a piece of property in the name of the State of South Carolina, for a general adult education center, serving general education, vocational education, and eventually, every facet of adult education. Results of the Opportunity School and Trade School have far exceeded the expectations.

August 29, 1946

Mr. L. F. Carson, Field Representative
Bureau of Education
Seventh Army Headquarters
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Sir:

Enclosed I am sending you an application form 4TM-739 on which is listed surplus army property at Fort Jackson which is desired for the Opportunity School to be used as an aid and in teaching the following four courses: Home Economics, Mess and Food Preparation, Diet and Table Etiquette, and Agriculture.

The Opportunity School was formerly held at Clemson College during the summer vacation school for workers under fifth grade level. As the years have passed, the curriculum has been broadened until it now offers courses appealing to those persons who have not been able to complete their high school education or cannot go to college. The work has been so successful that this past General Assembly made an appropriation for a permanent, year-round school. The school is being organized just now to serve returning veterans, their families, and other ambitious adults who

1. Were forced out of day school before they could complete their elementary or high school education, or
2. Desire at least one year in a boarding school in which they can learn the arts both of living and of making a living.

The purpose of the school will be not only to teach people how to make a living, but how to live. A work-study program is planned, with emphasis placed on both general education, including health and civics and vocational education. Therefore, the entire school will serve as class rooms.

The hospital area of the Columbia Army Air Base has been turned over to the State Department of Education for the new plant. However, the equipment has been moved, so it is imperative that we secure surplus material from the Army in order to open the school immediately to returning soldiers. The need for such a school is shown by the fact that only 18 % of the state's population is over high school level. There are thirty-three colleges in the state ready to serve this group, but no comparable institution is provided for the 82 % who have failed to complete high school.

The school hopes to secure a large per cent of its enrollment from veterans who have not completed the seventh grade. Therefore, they will come from homes of low educational attainment and low economic background. Emphasis will be given to Home Economics for all girls, and it is even hoped that some of the boys will take some courses in Home and Family Life involving certain phases of Home Economics. Therefore, we estimate the enrollment in the Home Economics classes will be 150.

Believing that students learn by doing rather than merely by studying from books, all pupils will have certain definite assignments in connection with the Mess and Food Preparation, but it is planned to offer a special course in this to those pupils who would like to earn their living through any work connected with restaurants and hotels.

You will notice that the entire enrollment of the school will take a course in Diet and Table Etiquette, on which they will be graded and given credit. Study shows that folk from the low income group are not well nourished. They have been accustomed to a limited diet, and their eating habits do not promote good health. Therefore, one of the most valuable courses in the Opportunity School has been Diet and Table Etiquette. It was taught and will continue to be taught in the dining room. There the pupils learn the basic foods, that meal time should be a happy time, and that digestion is aided through agreeable conversation and by taking sufficient time to eat properly. Each table is presided over by a teacher or a pupil. Every pupil in school takes turn in dining room service, and here it is the dietitian has the group to analyze the meals to see that they are getting the basic health requirements. Mimeographed suggestions on table etiquette by committees of students are placed at every plate and used as a basis for discussion from time to time. These are followed by dramatization of serious mistakes noticed in the dining room. With this approach, it has been found that improving table manners by breaking life long habits is not a hopeless undertaking, but rather becomes a stimulating learning experience. Then too, the dining room is the school's clearing house for announcements of all kinds, for the general exchange of amenities, the welcoming of visitors and for songs and yells. At intervals state dinners and banquets are held. These motivate the teaching of good manners. You will notice we are asking for sufficient silver to serve a meal correctly, for we believe only by giving the group correct standards can we hope to raise their level of living. Where better can such lessons as punctuality, good diet, manner habits, good sportsmanship, and sociability be taught than in the dining room. Therefore, in order that we

might have sufficient material with which to work, we are asking for material to be used in this way, believing that there is no better way to develop personality than in such an informal way.

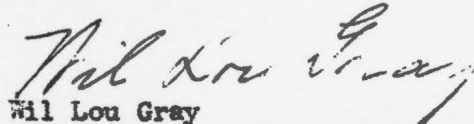
In regard to the tables. We are told that there are approximately sixty enlisted men's mess tables at Fort Jackson which are of no value because of the need of repairs. These will probably be torn down and used for scrap lumber if not given away. Will you give the authority to the Post Engineer to transfer them to the school?

The Library, like the dining room, will be used as a laboratory for fine living and wholesome recreation. There the students will do much of their studying, will meet for informal discussion of books, will entertain noted authors, and will receive visual aid instruction.

Since South Carolina is an agricultural state, the teaching of Agriculture will be stressed. The very set up of the school will motivate the development of gardens, both vegetable and flower. Therefore, it is imperative that we secure sufficient materials with which to promote laboratory work.

I trust when you have studied our request in light of the use in which the various materials will be used, that you will immediately secure authorization for us to get the materials, since they are now at Fort Jackson and we have been told can be turned over to us provided permission is given.

Yours truly,


Wil Lou Gray
Supervisor of Adult Schools

WLG:dhb

September 5, 1946

Mr. L. F. Carson
Jefferson Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Carson:

We are sending the material to you via air mail.
I hope it is all right.

We were frightened to death this morning to have a message from the air base saying that they were having a meeting in Washington today to decide the disposition of the air base. I called Senator Maybank and asked him to communicate with Mr. Frazer of the War Assets Administration and explain to them that your recommendation had been delayed because we could not secure information. I am calling Mr. Hirst this afternoon. I am enclosing a sticker for you to re-address this package to Mr. Hirst. As you talked, you mentioned the name of Mr. Alves. I am also sending a sticker for him. I trust you will have an envelope there.

Sincerely yours,

Will Lou Gray
Supervisor of Adult Schools

WLG:dhb

REPORT OF L. F. CARSON, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE, UNITED STATES OFFICE OF EDUCATION,
ON THE REQUEST OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE NORTHERN
SECTION OF THE COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA,
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL AND EDUCATION CENTER FOR THE STATE
OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

NATURE OF PROPOSED UTILIZATION

The South Carolina State Department of Education has operated an Opportunity School for twenty-five years. The idea behind this school has been to raise the educational level of the people of the state. At first it was to teach illiterates to read and write and to improve their health conditions. From that small beginning it has expanded its concept into trying to provide educational opportunities for all citizens of the state.

The proposed program is to provide a permanent, year-round school for veterans, their families and other citizens. A work-study program is planned with emphasis placed on general education, health, education, civics education, vocational education, and trade and industrial education.. This institution is not to supersede or take the place of any other institution in the state, but an institution designed to provide an opportunity for the great number of citizens within the state who has not completed very much, if any, type of formal education.

Another specific aim is to provide those under high school level comparable opportunity as that now provided by the colleges for those over high school level, particularly the veterans. The School plans general courses for high school graduates who cannot attend college for four years and, because of crowded conditions at the colleges it will also offer basic freshman work.

A part of the property is to be used as a conference center for colleges, universities, veterans' groups, or any others. In other words, it is to be a center for conferences, work shops, and the like for the people of South Carolina.

SUITABILITY OF THE FACILITIES FOR THE PROPOSED USE

The facilities offered in the northern part of the Columbia Army Air Base for the proposed program are excellent. The buildings would, of necessity, have to be remodeled to get the maximum use as an educational plant. It is estimated that the cost will be something around \$25,000 to remodel the buildings to obtain their most efficient use for immediate occupancy. The State Department of Education of South Carolina has informed me that the Legislature of South Carolina appropriated \$52,000 for the renovating and operation of this proposed plant.

The Columbia Army Air Base is located within five miles of the city of Columbia, South Carolina. This is particularly fortunate since the city with all of its industrial and cultural opportunities will be available to the students of this proposed Opportunity School. The many business and industries will also provide opportunity for students in this school to obtain work while they learn and the majority must have work to assist them in meeting their expenses.

CAPACITY OF INSTALLATION

The northern part of the Columbia Army Air Base requested by the State Department of Education has sufficient buildings to accommodate the anticipated enrollment, and covers an area of 435 acres. Some of the buildings are in excess of the immediate needs of the proposed educational plant. (These buildings are delineated on the attached plat. See exhibit 1.) However, the State Department of Education informs me that the excess buildings are to be dismantled and used in the future remodeling program for the permanent buildings. The land on which these buildings stand is not in excess and will be used, as all available land, in the program for gardening and agricultural demonstration in which the teaching is done by actually doing the work.

The Post Engineer Personnel stated that the buildings were of such construction that they could not be moved without destroying their use, but could be used as salvaging material only.

CAPACITY OF FACILITIES

Immediate anticipated enrollment of the Opportunity School is 500, and it is expected that an additional 500 will be enrolled in the auxiliary projects. It is estimated that this will be about the maximum capacity of the present installation after remodeling is done. An interim permit has been granted for the hospital area only, but this area will be insufficient for the carrying out of the proposed program. (A copy of interim permit is enclosed. See exhibit 11.)

One section will be developed as a housing center for veterans who will attend school either at the Opportunity School or at the University. At times there will be large numbers using the conference center portion of this property. The enrollment at some of these conferences is estimated in some instances to reach a thousand in number. Therefore, much space is needed.

RECORD OF ENROLLMENT FOR FACILITIES PROPOSED

The enrollment of the Opportunity School of 1941-42 was 290. The enrollment in 1946-48 was 363. The increase of the number of pupils in 1945 over 1941 enrollment would indicate that with the return of veterans, the enrollment would, in all probability, go beyond the estimated 500 capacity. It is expected that at least 3/5 of the enrollment will be veterans. As indicated in the original application, night school and short courses will be offered all during the year. There is great need for facilities to take care of conference groups which congested conditions in the state capitol have crowded out. (See copy of letter from Extension Division of the University of South Carolina, Exhibit 1.)

THE FACILITIES PROPOSED WILL BE UTILIZED

The facilities are to be used entirely for general education, health education, vocational education, trade and industrial education, and also numerous short

courses, night classes and conference groups. The purpose, as set forth in "NATURE OF VOCATIONAL UTILIZATION," is to provide opportunity for further education regardless of individual student's educational level.

THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED SERVICES WILL BE RESTRICTED

The proposed services of the Opportunity School will not be restricted, but in case restriction becomes necessary, veterans will receive first choice. It is expected that at least 60% of the student body will be veterans.

As stated in the original application, a Trade and Industrial Department will be set up as a part of the Opportunity School to prepare those inclined for industrial pursuits. This Industrial Department will be under the direct supervision of the Vocational Department of the State Department of Education. A number of shop courses will also be provided at night for those unable to attend during the day.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

All equipment in the buildings in the northern section of the Columbus Army Air Base has been removed with the exception of installed equipment. Enclosed is a detailed report of contents in buildings in this area as gathered from the Post Engineer's record. (See exhibit IV.) It will be seen that only installed equipment is now available. Therefore, it will be necessary for the Opportunity School to acquire other necessary property to conduct the proposed program. A list of this property is attached, and action for securing this equipment has been put in motion. (See exhibit V.)

FOUNDED FOR OPERATIONS

As stated earlier in this report, the Legislature of South Carolina has appropriated \$52,000 to be used in the maintenance and operation of this project. Added to this is also contributions and, of course, some fees from the students. It is the plan that each student pay \$6.00 per month fees, all of which will supplement the appropriation by the state legislature. The teachers are to be paid from regular state department funds, of which the \$52,000 is not a part.

SAVINGS TO THE UNITED STATES

Considerable savings to the United States will be made in the vocational training efforts of this institution. It is estimated that a trained individual pays \$170 more a year to the Federal Government in taxes than an untrained individual. Anticipating that it will take two years to train a student in the Opportunity School, and estimating that his years of earning capacity will be 25, it is easily seen that each person trained will pay in Federal taxes \$4,250. A conservative estimate is that 300 students will be trained each year. After ten years the 3,000 students will pay into the Federal treasury \$12,750,000, over a working period of twenty-five years.

Special classes are to be organized for rehabilitating the physically

handicapped veterans. It is estimated that each year at least fifty of this class of veterans will take these special courses. Since the anticipated cost to the United States Government for a non-rehabilitated veteran is \$1,000 per annum, every rehabilitated veteran will be a saving of \$1,000 to the government each year. If fifty are rehabilitated annually over a period of ten years, the 500 veterans rehabilitated would thereby save \$500,000 to the government.

While the monetary savings to the United States Government may be great, the savings to the United States in better educated people with higher morals and higher standards of living and better attitudes and appreciation for the form of government under which they live, will amount to far more than the monetary savings. When this is compared to the small amount of money which could be realized if the property were sold, the good accruing to the United States defies comparison.

RECOMMENDATION

From my knowledge of the situation in the state of South Carolina, and after consultation with the State Superintendent of Education, Mr. James H. Rope, the Governor of South Carolina, the Extension Division of the University of South Carolina, and also the heads of the various departments of the State Department of Education of South Carolina, and after investigating the northern portion of the Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina, I recommend that the entire northern section, designated on the attached plat., of the Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina, be turned over to the South Carolina State Department of Education, Columbia, South Carolina, for use as an Opportunity School as proposed in its application, and that a 100 % discount be allowed.

* Miss Gray, Director of the Opportunity School, when questioned about the need for land, stated that a large number of the students come from the farm and would return to the farm, therefore, would need actual experience in farming. Miss Gray also stated that the idea of learning by doing the work is the basic theory upon which this school operates. Each student will be expected to do farming under the supervision of a competent instructor. He will also be required to plant and study gardening in order to learn to provide his family with fresh foods.

In order to give the student a variety of experiences in the shortest time, a number of demonstrations will be running simultaneously, and since some varieties of plants overlap in growing seasons, and since it is very desirable that each student do the work, it is estimated that an average of at least one to two acres of land will be needed for each student studying farming.

The opportunity School is expected to enroll a hundred or more students in the farming course when it gets into full operation. This will require at least one hundred acres of land. Allowing for recreation space and the space occupied by the buildings, it is estimated that no more than one hundred to one hundred and fifty acres of tillable land remains in that portion of land requested.

REPORT OF L. F. CARSON, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE, UNITED STATES OFFICE OF EDUCATION, ON THE REQUEST OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE NORTHERN SECTION OF THE COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL AND EDUCATION CENTER FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

NATURE OF PROPOSED UTILIZATION

The South Carolina State Department of Education has operated an Opportunity School for twenty-five years. The idea behind this school has been to raise the educational level of the people of the state. At first it was to teach illiterates to read and write and to improve their health conditions. From that small beginning it has expanded its concept into trying to provide educational opportunities for all citizens of the state.

The proposed program is to provide a permanent, year-round school for veterans, their families and other citizens. A work-study program is planned with emphasis placed on general education, health, education, civics education, vocational education, and trade and industrial education. This institution is not to supersede or take the place of any other institution in the state, but an institution designed to provide an opportunity for the great number of citizens within the state who has not completed very much, in any, type of formal education.

Another specific aim is to provide those under high school level comparable opportunity as that now provided by the colleges for those over high school level, particularly the veterans. The School plans general courses for high school graduates who cannot attend college for four years and, because of crowded conditions at the colleges it will also offer basic freshman work.

A part of the property is to be used as a conference center for colleges, universities, veterans' groups, or any others. In other words, it is to be a center for conferences, work shops, and the like for the people of South Carolina.

SUITABILITY OF THE FACILITIES FOR THE PROPOSED USE

The facilities offered in the northern part of the Columbia Army Air Base for the proposed program are excellent. The buildings would, of necessity, have to be remodeled to get the maximum use as an educational plant. It is estimated that the cost will be something around \$25,000 to remodel the buildings to obtain their most efficient use for immediate occupancy. The State Department of Education of South Carolina has informed me that the legislature of South Carolina appropriated \$52,000 for the renovating and operation of this proposed plant.

The Columbia Army Air Base is located within five miles of the City of Columbia, South Carolina. This is particularly fortunate since the city with all of its industrial and cultural opportunities will be available to the students of this proposed Opportunity School. The many business and industries will also provide opportunity for students in this school to obtain work while they learn and the majority must have work to assist them in meeting their expenses.

CAPACITY OF INSTALLATION

The northern part of the Columbia Army Air Base requested by the State Department of Education has sufficient buildings to accommodate the anticipated enrollment, and covers an area of 435 acres. Some of the buildings are in excess of the immediate needs of the proposed educational plant. (Those buildings are delineated on the attached plat. See exhibit 1.) However, the State Department of Education informs me that the excess buildings are to be dismantled and used in the future remodeling program for the permanent buildings. The land on which these buildings stand is not in excess and will be used, as all available land, in the program for gardening and agricultural demonstration in which the teaching is done by actually doing the work.

The Post Engineer Personnel stated that the buildings were of such construction that they could not be moved without destroying their use, but could be used as salvaging material only.

CAPACITY OF FACILITIES

Immediate anticipated enrollment of the Opportunity School is 500, and it is expected that an additional 500 will be enrolled in the auxiliary projects. It is estimated that this will be about the maximum capacity of the present installation after remodeling is done. An interim permit has been granted for the hospital area only, but this area will be insufficient for the carrying out of the proposed program. (A copy of interim permit is enclosed. See Exhibit II.)

One section will be developed as a housing center for veterans who will attend school either at the Opportunity School or at the University. At times there will be large numbers using the conference center portion of this property. The enrollment at some of these conferences is estimated in some instances to reach a thousand in number. Therefore, much space is needed.

THE DEGREE OF NEED FOR THE FACILITIES PROPOSED

The enrollment of the Opportunity School of 1941-1942 was 270. The enrollment in 1945-1946 was 363. The increase of the number of pupils in 1945 over 1941 enrollment would indicate that with the return of veterans, the enrollment would, in all probability, go beyond the estimated 500 capacity. It is expected that at least 3/3 of the enrollment will be veterans. As indicated in the original application, night school and short courses will be offered all during the year. There is a great need for facilities to take care of conference groups which congested conditions in the state capitol have crowded out. (See copy of letter from Extension Division of the University of South Carolina, Exhibit III.)

THE EXTENT TO WHICH FACILITIES WILL BE UTILIZED

The facilities are to be used entirely for general education, health education, vocational education, trade and industrial education, and also numerous short courses, night classes and conference groups. The purpose, as set forth in "NATURE OF PROPOSED UTILIZATION," is to provide opportunity for further education regardless of individual student's educational level.

THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE PROPOSED SERVICES WILL BE RESTRICTED

The proposed services of the Opportunity School will not be restricted, but in case restrictions became necessary, veterans will receive first choice. It is expected that at least 60% of the student body will be veterans.

As stated in the original application, a Trade and Industrial Department will be set up as a part of the Opportunity School to prepare those inclined for industrial pursuits. This Industrial Department will be under the direct supervision of the Vocational Department of the State Department of Education. A number of shop courses will also be provided at night for those unable to attend during the day.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

All equipment in the buildings in the northern section of the Columbia Army Air Base has been removed with the exception of the installed equipment. Enclosed is a detailed report of contents in buildings in this area as gathered from the Post Engineer's record. (See exhibit IV.) It will be seen that only installed equipment is now available. Therefore, it will be necessary for the Opportunity School to acquire other necessary property to conduct the proposed program. A list of this property is attached, and action for securing this equipment has been put in motion. (See exhibit V.)

FUNDS FOR OPERATION

As stated earlier in this report, the Legislature of South Carolina has appropriated \$52, 000 to be used in the maintenance and operation of this project. Added to this is also contributions and, of course, some fees from the students. It is the plan that each student pay \$6.00 per month fees, all of which will supplement the appropriations by the state legislature. The teachers are to be paid from regular state department funds, of which the \$52, 000 is not a part.

BENEFITS TO THE UNITED STATES

Considerable savings to the United States will be made in the vocational training efforts of this institution. It is estimated that a trained individual pays \$170.00 more a year to Federal Government in taxes than an untrained individual. Anticipating that it will take two years to train a student in the Opportunity School, and estimating that his years of earning capacity will be 25, it is easily seen that each person trained will pay in Federal taxes \$4, 250. A conservative estimate is that 300 students will be trained each year. After ten years the 3,000 students will pay into the Federal Treasury \$12, 750, 000, over a working period of twenty-five years.

Special classes are to be organized for rehabilitating the physically handicapped veterans. It is estimated that each year at least fifty of this class of veterans will take these special courses. Since the anticipated cost to the United States Government for a non-rehabilitated veteran is \$1,000 per annum, every rehabilitated veteran will be a saving of \$1,000 to the government each year. If fifty are rehabilitated annually over a period of ten years, the 500 veterans would thereby save \$5, 000, 000 to the government.

While the monetary savings to the United States Government may be great, the savings to the United States in better educated people with higher morals and higher standards of living and better attitudes and appreciation for the form of government under which they live, will amount to far more than the monetary savings. When this is compared to the small amount of money which could be realized if the property were sold, the good accruing to the United States defies comparison.

RECOMMENDATION

From my knowledge of the situation in the state of South Carolina, and after consultation with the State Superintendent of Education, Mr. James H. Hope, the governor of South Carolina, the Extension Division of the University of South Carolina, and also the heads of the various departments of the State Department of Education of South Carolina, and after investigating the northern portion of the Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina, be turned over to the South Carolina State Department of Education, Columbia, South Carolina, for use as an Opportunity School as proposed in its application, and that a 100% discount be allowed.

* Miss Gray, Director of the Opportunity School, when questioned about the need for land, stated that a large number of the students come from the farm and would return to the farm, therefore, would need actual experiences in farming. Miss Gray also stated that the idea of learning by doing the work is the basic theory upon which this school operates. Each student will be expected to do farming under the supervision of a competent instructor. He will also be required to plant and study gardening in order to learn to provide his family with fresh foods.

In order to give the student a variety of experiences in the shortest time, a number of demonstrations will be running simultaneously, and since some varieties of plants overlap in growing seasons, and since it is very desirable that each student do the work, it is estimated that an average of at least one to two acres of land will be needed for each student studying farming.

The Opportunity School is expected to enroll a hundred or more students in the farming course when it gets into full operation. This will require at least one hundred acres of land. Allowing for recreation space and space occupied by the buildings, it is estimated that no more than one hundred to one hundred and fifty acres of tillable land remains in that portion of land requested.

COPY

March 17, 1947

Mr. P. A. Tharp
War Assets Administration
1246 Main Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Tharp:

We are today sending you a revised application requesting that certain portions of the Columbia Army Air Base which was purchased by the national government during the war and which in no way conflicts with the properties of Lexington County be turned over to the State of South Carolina for the development of the Opportunity School and Adult Education Center.

As you read the application you will notice that we have in mind the development of an all-enclusive program of adult education which will serve the entire state at all levels thus raising the standards of living in South Carolina as well as stimulating progressive thinking in regard to citizenship and world-understanding. Then, too, we are trying to provide for the returning veteran not privileged to complete high school a comparable chance as that given to veterans on college level.

We propose to use the various properties as follows:

1. THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

The Hospital Area will constitute the Opportunity School proper being set up especially to serve veterans, their families and others who have not completed their secondary education and who need to learn a vocation. This section will be the center of all general education. It will be converted into administration building, classrooms, laboratories, dormitories, mess hall, infirmary and auditorium.

2. CIVIC CENTER: HOUSING FOR PUPIL-VETERANS AND FAMILIES

In the Officers' Quarters Area the buildings will be used as follows: The auditorium and theater for both Opportunity School and Civic Center. Buildings numbered 460 through 471, and 479 through 484 will house persons coming to the Civic Center for conferences, institutes, and conventions. The study of South Carolina history in the public schools of the state emphasizes the desirability of classes visiting all sections of the state. Prior to 1941 approximately 20% of the seventh grades studying South Carolina history made two and three-day trips over the state. It is anticipated that these pilgrimages will be resumed now that the use of school buses is no longer restricted, so we would like to offer to the pupils of the public schools of South Carolina the opportunity of spending a day or two

March 17, 1947

in their State Capitol at a very modest cost. The Extension Division of the University of South Carolina has been housing these pilgrimages in the past. Because of the crowded conditions on the University campus they can no longer do this. We expect to charge no more than the University of South Carolina charged for this service.

Buildings numbered 472 through 476, 478, 482, 485, 486 and 487 are to provide toilet facilities for the above listed dormitories.

Building number 477 will be used to feed the various groups that make use of the Civic Center and to provide recreational facilities and conference rooms for the groups.

Buildings numbered 701 through 729 will be converted into apartments for married veterans who expect to attend the Opportunity School for either the day or night sessions.

3. TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPARTMENT

The Post Engineer Area and the Colored Area will provide admirably for a Trade and Industry Department.

Buildings numbered 550-559, 571, 585, 586, 587 and 588 are to be used for the same purpose they are now used, that is repair, maintenance and instructional shops. We are requesting further that all equipment such as workbenches, shelves, storage bins, etc., be left in these buildings. Later it is planned to convert some of the houses in this area into servant quarters.

4. RECREATION CENTER AND SMALL AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

The Prisoner of War School and the Skeet Range areas will be used for recreation and small agricultural projects after undesired buildings are removed. Only two buildings are desired-560, which will provide an excellent gymnasium for students, and 591 with adjacent field which will be used for outdoor activities. Eventually homes for faculty members will be located on some of this area.

5. FARM LAND

We propose to use the area lying on the northwest side of South Carolina Highway No. 602, commonly known as the Platt Springs Road, and extending to the Old Columbia-Barnwell County Road, as farming land in connection with our agriculture classes. We understand from local residents that this land is quite suitable as farm land and pasture land. Since we are placing considerable emphasis on the teaching of farm and land management, it is quite necessary that we have a practice area. Then too, the majority of the students come from the low economic level so they must work to defray their expenses. Growing our own food products will permit reduced boarding expenses as well as providing work for students while they learn on the job.

Mr. P. A. Tharp

-3-

March 17, 1947

The buildings located on this area will be used for a caretaker's home, laborer's home, barn, milk shed, laying houses, brooder houses, storage for both food and implements. We would also like to use the two ponds in the southwestern corner of this property known as Sox's Ponds as a watering area for range cattle and as a demonstration that small ponds can be an important source of food on a farm. The third pond would be used for recreational purposes. We expect to fertilize and cultivate these ponds in the manner established by the Auburn Agricultural Experiment Station. We would like to use Buildings Nos. 1133 and 1135, which adjoin these ponds, as storage rooms for equipment used around the ponds. We would like also to use the area numbered 1134 as a breeding area for hogs.

I trust when you have studied this application that you will see in the proposed school an opportunity to serve South Carolina, and, incidentally, the nation at large, and that our request will grant one hundred per cent.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Jesse T. Anderson
Jesse T. Anderson
State Superintendent of Education

JTA;dhb

REVISED APPLICATION BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES
OF THE COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE TO BE USED BY SAID DEPARTMENT AS A PERMANENT
PLANT FOR THE STATE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL.

The State Department of Education is requesting that the property designated on the accompanying map be turned over to the State of South Carolina to be used as an Adult Education Center for South Carolina for the following purposes:
(See Plat, Exhibit 1)

1. A. A permanent, year-round Opportunity School for veterans, their families and other ambitious adults who
 - (1) Were forced out of day school before they could complete their elementary or high school education, or
 - (2) Desire at least one year in a boarding school in which they can learn the arts both of living and of making a living.

A work-study program is planned, with emphasis placed on both general education, including health and civics, and vocational education.

B. A Trade and Industrial School.

Since there is an imperative need for skilled labor in this state, and since it is impossible to provide laboratories and technical instruction in isolated centers, it is purposed to develop a School of Trade and Industrial Training as a part of the Opportunity School.

It is estimated that the yearly enrollment for these two projects will be 500.

2. Regular night classes.

These will be offered by the Opportunity School in both vocational and general subjects for non-resident students who can devote only leisure hours to study.

It is estimated that the annual enrollment will be 200.

3. A. A conference center with sufficient housing accommodations for 500. This property will be used for work sponsored by veterans groups, and by professional groups, wishing to hold workshops or conferences in education, health, nutrition, recreation, citizenship, and current social and economic problems.

There is at present no suitable place in or near Columbia for such groups to meet. This area would be ideal for conferences and workshops because it is easily accessible to Columbia, and yet a unit to itself where participants would be undisturbed. Only nominal fees for lodging would need to be charged. Exhibits could be prepared ahead of time and left in place until the conference had been concluded.

It is estimated that more than 2,000 people will take advantage of this center during the year.

- B. Civic Training Center for adult, high school and elementary students who come to Columbia for short periods to study South Carolina as a unit stressing its governmental functions.

Since Columbia is the geographic center of the State, the pupils may use this area as a base, going out during the day to different sections of the State for daily field trips. While many school pupils come to Columbia at present, it is for only the day, since there is now no place to accommodate large groups overnight. It is felt that several days could profitably be spent in Columbia, seeing points of historic and scenic interest and observing at first hand the functions of state government.

It is estimated that at least 5,000 students would annually use this area, on the basis of slightly more than 100 from each county.

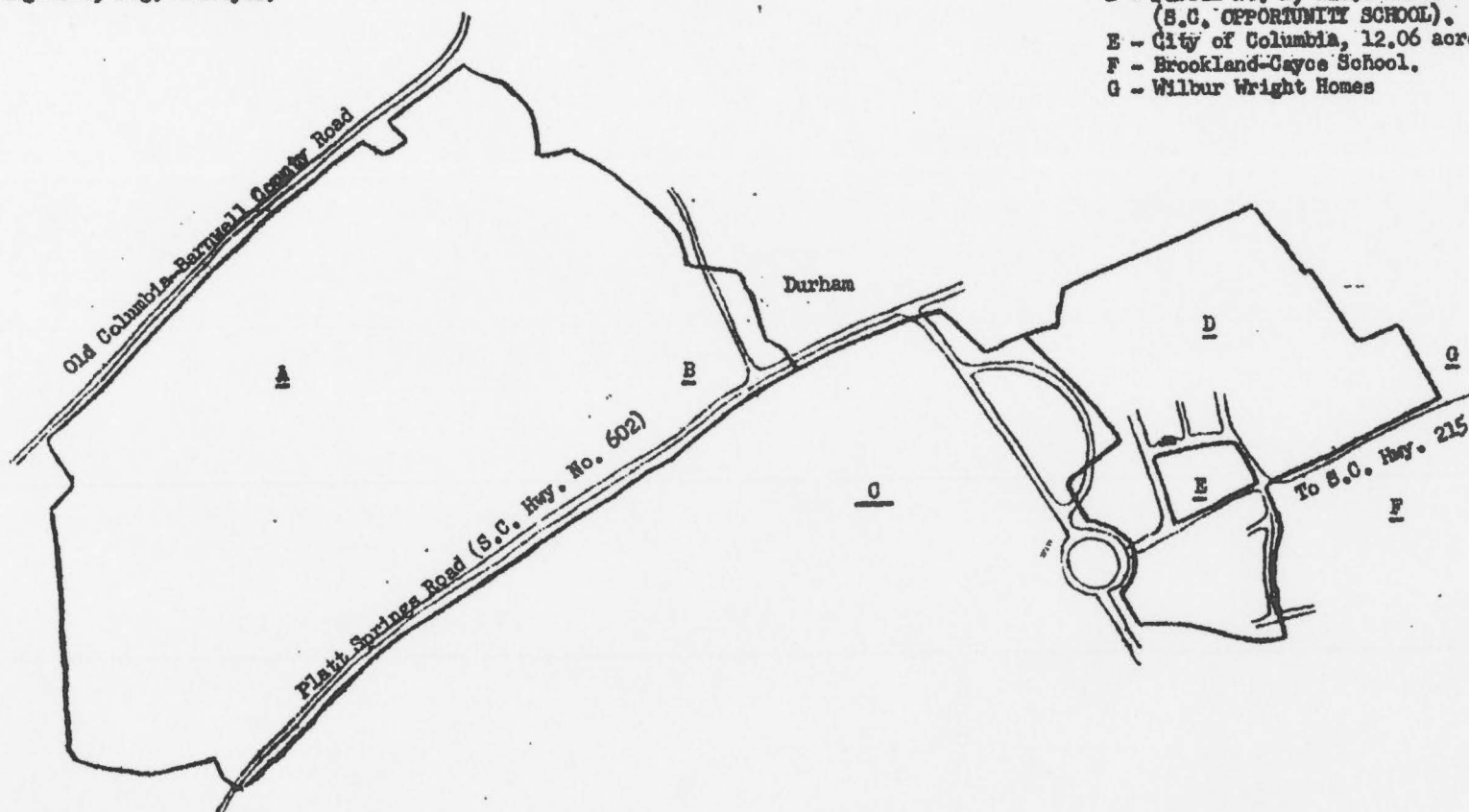
- C. Housing for Veterans

It is proposed that some of the barracks at the air base be converted into houses to be used by veterans' families. The G. I. who is on college level may enroll at the University while his wife may study at the Opportunity School. In this connection, one of the projects to be developed as soon as possible is a Nursery School, where mothers may attend with their children and study child care and child psychology, as well as allied subjects.

Plat prepared for
S.C. OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
Lexington County Near Cayce, S.C.
(William Wingfield, Reg. Surveyor)



- A - Parcel No. 2, 671.5 acres + (FARM).
- B - LAKE AND RECREATION AREA.
- C - S.C. Area Trade School, Columbia Branch,
142.01 acres.
- D - Parcel No. 1, 128.6 acres +
(S.C. OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL).
- E - City of Columbia, 12.06 acres.
- F - Brookland-Cayce School.
- G - Wilbur Wright Homes



March 29, 1947

Mr. L. F. Carson
U.S.O.E. Field Representative
Section G-4, Third Army Headquarters
Old Post Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Carson:

We regret that you were not able to get back Friday. However, below we are giving you the information you needed:

The area that we are requesting over that requested in the first application is designated on the map in blue and was known as the Powder Magazine Area, but we are requesting it for farm use for both general and live stock farming. The Pletts Springs Road separates this area from the area already requested. The number of acres in this area is approximately 560. Our supplementary application was filed on March 18. I suggest that in making your supplementary recommendation you address it to Mr. Robert Whittet, Director, Institutional Division, Office of Real Property Disposal, War Assets Administration, Washington 25, D. C., and to be called to the attention of Mr. W. T. Frazer.

Did they not send your Atlanta office a copy of this application, or is it being handled entirely from Washington? We sent four copies of the application to the office here in Columbia and I understood from them that they would forward them to the proper parties. We understood from the authorities in the office here that they have given a strong recommendation. They forwarded me the letter and I was quite pleased with it and this morning two of the men came over, looked it over, and said they could give an even stronger recommendation. I hope you will get your letter to Mr. Whittet off by the next mail.

We are enclosing a memorandum which will, at a glance, show how our school in reality is immediately becoming an adult education center and please keep in mind that we are still in the initial and installation stage. We are not yet in a position to give the publicity we should like to the project because we are not prepared to take care of the demands which would follow. However, we hope to have everything ready to go at full speed by July 1.

Sincerely yours,

Will Lou Gray
Director of Opportunity School

CC: Mr. W. H. Tharp
War Assets Administration
Columbia, South Carolina

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
U. S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Columbia, S. C.
April 4, 1947

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

BY

L. P. CARSON, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF EDUCATION ON REVISED REQUEST

OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FOR NORTHERN SECTION OF COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

AS OF MARCH 18, 1947

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON REQUEST OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL AND EDUCATION CENTER FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AS REVISED MARCH 18, 1947, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE ORDNANCE OR POWDER MAGAZINE AREA.

LOCATION OF PROPERTY:

The area in question is located west of the Platt Springs Road as designated on plat submitted with application to the War Assets Administration on March 18, 1947.

AREA: Approximately 563 acres.

VALUE: Approximately \$8,500.

BUILDINGS AS SHOWN ON ATTACHED LIST.

AGENCY HAVING DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY: War Assets Administration.

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: United States Government.

PERSONS INTERVIEWED:

Mr. Jesse T. Anderson, Superintendent of Education, State of South Carolina.

Miss Wil Lou Gray, Director of Opportunity School, Columbia, South Carolina.

Mr. J. L. Graves, Business Manager and Head of Agriculture Department, Opportunity School, Columbia, South Carolina.

EXTENT OF REPORT

A report on the original application was made outlining the nature and purpose of the South Carolina Opportunity School. The revised application submitted to the War Assets Administration on March 18, 1947, restates the purpose and aims of the institution. Since this report is to cover that portion of the Columbia Army Air Base not covered in the original request, it is considered unnecessary to make a full report of the revised application.

The revised application requests that the portion of the Columbia Army Air Base known as the Powder Magazine Area, or Ordnance Area, (land and buildings) as shown on map attached to revised application, be turned over to the Opportunity School in addition to land and buildings requested in the original application. This area is being requested to be used for farm use for general and live-stock farming, hog raising, poultry enterprises and fish production.

SUITABILITY OF AREA FOR PROPOSED USE

This area was investigated and it is estimated that 150 to 200 acres are suitable for farming, 200 acres as pasture land, the remainder, scrub forest, and two lakes composing seven acres of land. There are located on this area three brick buildings which can be used, with some alterations, for poultry and live-stock purposes. There are, also, some dilapidated wooden buildings located on this same area which, with renovation, would be suitable for poultry, cattle, and hog raising. The lakes are suitable for fish production and/or for recreational purposes. With the exception of a small outlay of funds for repairs, this area will entail no financial outlay for its operation.

EXTENT TO WHICH FACILITIES WILL BE UTILIZED

In conference with Miss Wil Lou Gray, Director of the Opportunity School, and Mr. J. L. Graves, Business Manager and Head of the Agriculture Department, it was stated by them that it is the intention of the school to expand their educational offerings into live-stock and hog raising as well as poultry and fish producing. Some of these fields of agricultural education were not contemplated in the original curriculum of the school. Since approximately 75 acres of land on the original request have been turned over to Lexington County, a part of the area naturally would have to be used in gardening and farm demonstration as proposed in the original application.

JUSTIFICATION OF NEED

The South Carolina Opportunity School started operation in January, 1947. As it will be recognized, this period of the year is a very bad season to begin any educational activities. However, the enrollment has steadily increased, and up to the present time has had courses in general grade and high school subjects, vocational training and institutes for nurses, training for highway patrolmen, and several state planning conferences for civic programs. The aggregate enrollment in these classes is approximately 400. Miss Wil Lou Gray, Director of the Opportunity School, makes the point that if, within the period of three months, the Opportunity School has performed these services for the citizens of the state, she is of the opinion that when full operation begins on a regular school year basis that the enrollment of this institution will greatly increase.

Mr. Graves, Business Manager and Head of the Agriculture Department, states that the Opportunity School now has a class in agriculture and that by September of 1947 he is expecting a large increase in enrollment in this department, and in long-range planning of this department he expects an enrollment of from 150-200.

Cattle raising (both dairy and beef), hogs, poultry and, where it is feasible, fish production are integral parts of an agricultural course, and in order to offer this well rounded agricultural course it is necessary to add these phases to the existing program.

Mr. Jesse T. Anderson, State Superintendent of Education for the State of South Carolina, was consulted in regard to the needs of this area for the South Carolina Opportunity School. Mr. Anderson stated that in long view planning for the services of this school it was his opinion that the Opportunity School could make good use of the above property.

RECOMMENDATION

My investigation of the Powder Magazine, or Ordnance, Area of the Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina, as requested by the South Carolina State Department of Education for use by the South Carolina Opportunity School reveals:

1. That the requested property is suitable for use for the purpose for which it is being requested.
2. That, in view of long range planning and the probability of great expansion in enrollment, this property will not be in excess of the need of this institution.
3. This property has little other present value than that of farm land.
4. This property is owned by the Government of the United States, and, in my opinion, will yield the greatest return to the government when used for educational purposes.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Powder Magazine Area, or the Ordnance Area, of the Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina, be turned over to the State Department of Education of South Carolina, for use by the Opportunity School of South Carolina which is operated by this department.

L. F. Carson

L. F. Carson, Field Representative
U. S. Office of Education

BUILDINGS ON POWDER MAGAZINE, OR ORDNANCE, AREA
COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE

ORDNANCE MAGAZINE: No. 566, Size 26 x 60, Type Brick

OFFICE BUILDING: No. 561, Size 20 x 76, Type WPA-2
(Equipment: 1 lavatory, 2 commodes)

ORDNANCE MAGAZINE: No. 562, Size 20 x 60, Type Brick

CHEMICAL STORAGE: No. 563, Size 25 x 27, Type M-10

WATER TOWER SIGALIN-2 PAY: No. 564, Size 10 x 20, Type Brick

PYROTECHNIC STORAGE: No. 565, Size 16 x 14, Type M-1

ISLAK: No. 1106, Size 20 x 40, Timber

CHEMICAL STORAGE: No. 1107, Size 20 x 100, Type M-1

AMMUNITION RECHARGE: No. 1111, Size 20 x 48, Type M-1

AMMUNITION MAGAZINE: No. 1110, Size 22 x 40, Type WPA-2-0

FUSE HUT: No. 1129, Size 5 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1120, Size 5 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1122, Size 5 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1121, Size 5 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, Type SP

INERT STORAGE BUILDING: No. 1113, Size 24 x 40, Type M-1

FUSE HUT: No. 1123, Size 5 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1124, Size 5 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1125, Size 5 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, Type SP

PYROTECHNIC STORAGE: No. 1109, Size 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 27 $\frac{1}{2}$, Type Chem-A-0

FUSE HUT: No. 1126, Size 5 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1127, Size 5 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1128, Size 5 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, Type SP

PIT LATRINE: No. 1132, Size 6 x 10, Type SP

CLASH ROOM (SEA POWER): No. 1133, Size 20 x 48

TOXIC GAS STORAGE BLDG: No. 1134, Size 12 x 16, Type SP

BUILDINGS, BORDEN MAGAZINE AREA, CONT.

LABATORY BLDG: No. 1114, Size 10 x 14, Type 3P
(Equipment: 4 commodes, 1 urinal)

LINE TRAINING BLDG: No. 1115, Size 20 x 50, Type 27C

BATH HOUSE: No. 1211, Size 20 x 100, Type 60C

CLUB HOUSE: No. 1213, Size 32 x 32, Type Log

**FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
U. S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION
COLUMBIA, SC
APRIL 4, 1947**

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

BY

L.F. CARSON, FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF EDUCATION ON REVISED REQUEST

OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FOR NORTHERN SECTION OF COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE, COLUMBIA, SOUTH

CAROLINA

AS OF MARCH 18, 1947

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT ON REQUEST OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE NORTHERN SECTION OF THE COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL AND EDUCATION CENTER FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AS REVISED MARCH 18, 1947, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE ORDNANCE OR POWDER MAGAZINE AREA.

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AREA: Approximately 563 acres.

VALUE: Approximately \$8, 500.

BUILDINGS AS SHOWN ON ATTACHED LIST.

AGENCY HAVING DISPOSITION OF PROERTY: War Assets Administration.

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: United States Government.

PERSONS INTERVIEWED:

Mr. Jesse T. Anderson, Superintendent of Education, State of South Carolina.

Miss Wil Lou Gray, Director of Opportunity School, Columbia, South Carolina.

Mr. J. L. Graves, Business Manager and Head of Agriculture Department, Opportunity School, Columbia, South Carolina.

EXTENT OF REPORT

A report on the original application was made outlining the nature and purpose of the South Carolina Opportunity School. The revised application submitted to the War Assets Administration on March 18, 1947, restates the purpose and aims of the institution. Since this report is to cover that portion of the Columbia Army Air Base not covered in the original request, it is considered unnecessary to make a full report of the revised application.

The revised application requests that the portion of the Columbia Army Air Base known as the Powder Magazine Area, or Ordnance Area, (land and buildings) as shown on map attached to revised application, be turned over to the Opportunity School in addition to land and buildings requested in the original application. This area is being requested to be used for farm use for general and live-stock farming, hog raising, poultry enterprises and fish production.

SUITABILITY OF AREA FOR PROPOSED USE

This area was investigated and it is estimated that 150 to 200 acres are suitable for farming, 200 acres as pasture land, the remainder, scrub forest, and two lakes composing seven acres of land. There are located on this area three brick buildings which can be used, with some alterations, for poultry and live-stock purposes. There are, also, some dilapidated wooden buildings located on this same area which, with renovation, would be suitable for poultry, cattle, and hog raising. The lakes are suitable for fish production and /or for recreational purpose. With the exception of a small outlay of funds for repairs, this area will entail no financial outlay for its operation.

EXTENT TO WHICH FACILITIES WILL BE UTILIZED

In conference with Miss Wil Lou Gray, Director of the Opportunity School, and Mr. J. L. Graves, Business Manager and Head of the Agriculture Department, it was stated by them that it is the intention of the school to expand their educational offerings into live-stock and hog raising as well as poultry and fish producing. Some of these fields of agricultural education were not contemplated in the original curriculum of the school. Since approximately 75 acres of land on the original request have been turned over to Lexington County, a part of the area naturally would have to be used in gardening and farm demonstration as proposed in the original application.

JUSTIFICATION OF NEED

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Mr. Graves, Business Manager and Head of the Agriculture Department, states that the Opportunity School now has a class in agriculture and that by September of 1947 he is expecting a large increase in enrollment in this department, and in long-range planning of this department he expects an enrollment of from 150-200.

Cattle raising (both dairy and beef) , hogs, poultry and, where it is feasible, fish production are integral parts of an agricultural course, and in order to offer this well rounded agricultural course it is necessary to add these phases to the existing program.

Mr. Jesse T. Anderson, State Superintendent of Education for the State of South Carolina, was consulted in regard to the needs of this area for the South Carolina Opportunity School. Mr. Anderson stated that in long view planning for the services of this school it was his opinion that the Opportunity School could make good use of the above property.

RECOMMENDATION

My investigation of the Powder Magazine, or Ordnance, Area of the Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina, as requested by the South Carolina State Department of Education for use by the South Carolina Opportunity School reveals:

1. That the requested property is suitable for use for the purpose for which it is being requested.
2. That, in view of long range planning and the probability of great expansion in enrollment, this property will not be in excess of the need of this institution.
3. This property has little other present value than that of farm land.
4. This property is owned by the Government of the United States, and in my opinion, will yield the greatest return to the government when used for educational purposes.
5. Therefore, it is recommended that the Powder Magazine Area, or the Ordnance Area, of the Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, South Carolina, for use by the Opportunity School of South Carolina which is operated by this department.

L. F. Carson, Field Representative
U. S. Office of Education

**BUILDINGS ON POWDER MAGAZINE, OR ORDNANCE, AREA
COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE**

ORDNANCE MAGAZINE: No. 566, Size 26 x 60, Type Brick

OFFICE BUILDING: NO. 561, Size 20 x 76, Type TSA-2
(Equipment: 1 lavatory, 2 commodes)

ORDNANCE MAGAZINE: No. 562, size 20 x 60, Type Brick

CHEMICAL STORAGE: No. 563, size 25 x 27, Type SH-10

SEGREGATED STORAGE-3 BAY: No. 564, Size 10 x 20, Type Brick

PYROTECHNICS STORAGE: No. 565, size 16 x 14, Type O5H-1

IGLOO: No. 1106, Size 20 x 40, Timber

CHEMICAL STORAGE: No. 1107, Size 20 x 100, Type SHAT

AMMUNITION STOREHOUSE: No. 1111, Size 22 x 48, Type SHBT

UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE: No. 1110, Size 22 x 40, Type MAG-B-O

FUSE HUT: No. 1129, Size 5 x 10 ½, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1120, Size 5 x 10 ½, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1122, Size 5 x 10 ½, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1121, Size 5 x 10 ½, Type SP

INERT STORAGE BUILDING: No. 1113, Size 24 x 40, Type 000

FUSE HUT: No. 1123, Size 5 x 10 ½, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1124, Size 5 x 10 ½, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1125, Size 5 x 10 ½, Type SP

PYROTECHNIC STORAGE: No. 1109, Size 25 ½ x 27 ½, Type Chem-A-O

FUSE HUT: No. 1126 Size 5 x 10 ½, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1127, Size 5 x 10 ½, Type SP

FUSE HUT: No. 1128, Size 5 x 10 ½, Type SP

PIT LATRINE: No. 1132, Size 6 x 10, Type SP

CLASS ROOM (SOX POND) No. 1133, Size 20 x 48

TOXIC GAS STORAGE BLDG: No. 1134, Size 12 x 16, Type SP

LAVATORY BLDG: No. 1114, Size 10 x 14, Type SP
Equipment: 4 Commodes, 1 Urinal

LINE TRAINING MISSION BLDG: No. 1115, Size 20 x 50, Type 000

BATH HOUSE: No. 1211, Size 20 x 100, Type 000

CLUB HOUSE: No. 1213, Size 32 x 32, Type Log

ayer	Pilotless Plane	Land For Trade	Motor Transport
Md.	Makes Flight From	Schools Sought	Men to Hear
California to Ohio	By Thurmond	Bowie Saturday	
<p>June 11—(AP)— old aircraft ed today by circuit court under (with- out)—in the sweetheart, led after 50 on, calls for he tall, quiet the death of ster, 29. once was de- unsel filed a l. ically denied that he killed led the jury's of the woman last Decem- in a second- le used farm r family near states require ns.</p>	<p>June 11—(AP)— A pilotless four-engine army trans- port plane landed at the Army Air Forces flying center here at 3:30 p. m. today, completing in eight hours and 46 minutes a 2,000-mile non-stop flight from Long Beach, Calif., during which no member of the 10-man crew touched the huge craft's controls. Describing the flight as the long- est of its kind on record, Army en- gineers said it was made by a new "pushbutton" automatic flight sys- tem not to be confused with the "drone system" or remote control- led flight. Nu Phi Mu Sorority Meets at Jefferson Unit 1 of the Nu Phi Mu sorority will hold a meeting at 8 o'clock this evening at the Jefferson hotel.</p>	<p>June 11—(AP)— Governor J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina asked war assets administrator Robert M. Littlejohn yesterday to help him get land for state trade schools. Thurmond told a reporter the state expects to put 15 to 20 trade schools into operation within a year. He said he told Littlejohn the state is anxious to obtain land and buildings used by the army during the war on Sullivan's Island, the Charleston army air base and the Columbia army air base. "Ninety per cent of South Caro- linians never go to college," Thur- mond said. "We intend to give them a chance for bigger pay checks because they'll get training to do better work, and be able to pay for happier holidays."</p>	<p>George A. Bowie, author, turer and a member of the de- partment of public relations of Firestone Tire and Rubber pany of Akron, Ohio, will add the 12th annual convention of Motor Transportation associ- Saturday at the Ocean Forest Myrtle Beach. Mr. Bowie has been address- audiences for over 12 years in parts of the country. His spee- has been, "How to Get Along Yourself and With a World Full Other People." For his appearance in M- Beach, Mr. Bowie will use subject, "Semper Fidelis . . . It Here!" Marked By Shrapnel The white dial of Big Ben mous clock of the Houses of liament, in London, contains holes made by shrapnel during raids in World War I.</p>

EST'S RECORD BI

RECORD

Friday, June 13, 1947, Columbia, S. C.

Opens July 1

Opportunity School Offers Varied Work

"South Carolina On Parade" will be the overall theme of a summer educational session scheduled to take place at Lexington county's Opportunity school from July 1 until July 26.

The term will be open to "anyone over 16 with a strong body, a good mind and clean morals who is ambitious and cooperative," according to Director Will Lou Gray. Miss Gray stated today that the school has been approved for G. I. training and that a day nursery will be provided for those parents who wish to bring children.

"The Opportunity school," said Miss Gray, "offers just what the name implies: A chance—a chance to study whatever you need or wish to learn in a congenial, stimulating atmosphere; a chance to work towards a high school certificate, to acquire a hobby, to fit yourself for promotion in your work, or to improve your home surroundings."

Full Program

The program for each day is full to overflowing, the director noted. Every experience provides a learning situation, from arranging the room until vesper at night. The morning is to be given to home

room work and specific courses, the afternoon to some type of creative work, while the late afternoon and evening of each day will be devoted to recreation.

Students will be divided into home rooms, each group developing a unit on South Carolina such as: "Historic Episodes in South Carolina," "Rediscovered South Carolinians," "The Evolution of Agriculture," "The Evolution of Industry," "Books As Mirrors of the State," and "The State's Assets and Liabilities." Pilgrimages to various parts of the state will be entered into by home room classes who will later report their findings to the school.

High School Work

Informal schooling will be stressed during the summer session, Miss Gray said. Emphasis will be placed on subjects leading to the award of high school certificates.

The following courses will be offered, provided as many as ten persons register for each:

English, spoken and written; vocabulary building, arithmetic, algebra, parliamentary law, leadership training, "getting the most out of your dollar", community problems, home nursing, orchestra, chorus, arts, crafts, interior decorating, sewing, planning, cooking, serving meals, agriculture, gardening, canning, woodworking, concrete masonry, typing, bookkeeping, office practice, plumbing, painting, papering.

Cost of the summer session for each attending person will be \$32. Students are instructed to bring a pillow and bed linen, towels, toilet articles, musical instrument if desired, bathing suit, plain work clothes for men, plus one suit for church attendance. Girls are requested to bring ample, inexpensive dresses plus one light wrap.

Interested persons are invited to contact the school director, Miss Will Lou Gray, as soon as possible.

Frozen apples have been kept four months without losing an appreciable amount of vitamin C.

Ex-Contestant Gives Tips On N. J. Pageant

GREENWOOD, Miss., June 13—(UP)—Take it from blonde Jo Nobles, "Miss Mississippi of 1946"—beauty alone won't win the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City.

"You need a chaperone who knows the ropes," Miss Nobles said in a signed story in the Greenwood Morning Star.

She warned future contestants that "there'll be so much conniving and back patting that you'll have to fight—be prepared to stand on your own feet and get what is right—ly yours."

"Don't be afraid of stepping on someone's feelings," Miss Nobles said. "You've got to be a step ahead of them or your feelings will be ground down."

Miss Nobles is now employed by a New York model agency. In her verbal pokes at sponsors of the tournament Miss Nobles said:

"Don't expect or think that anyone will do you any big favors that they promise. If it is at all possible, take someone with you as a chaperone who knows the ropes."

"Don't expect any obligations from your agent or sponsor because he'll probably forget you while you're in Atlantic City. Mine was too busy to come last year until the contest was almost over."

Miss Nobles explained that she had no one there (Atlantic City) to see that she got publicity which she said is "so important." The curve-some miss said that she was "completely ignorant of the angles."

Other candidates, she said, had their agents "working on the photographers and writers, talking to the judges, and getting the inside dope on what and how they were to do."

"The other girls' agents were there pulling and doing everything possible for them so that the judges and the Miss America pageant knew they were in," Miss Nobles said.

She took a slap at the "Miss Mississippi" sponsors for conducting their contest so late. She said that she had only a few weeks to "polish herself" for the big show while other entrants have several months to remove their faults and beautify

Fishing Line

BARGAIN OFFER!

Genuine 2-Ply Waterproof



NYLON

Fishing Line

APPROXIMATELY

100 FEET

File: Publicity

Baer-72542

[16 June 1947

WAA-1358

WAR ASSETS ADMINISTRATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 16, 1947

A portion of the Columbia Army Air Base, Columbia, S.C., has been transferred to the State of South Carolina for use as a new vocational school, War Assets Administration said today.

The transfer was made at a nominal consideration after full discount for public benefit allowances.

The state will acquire the 998-acre, non-airport portion of the base on which are located 217 buildings including the hospital and barracks. Some of the structures are in poor condition. No personal property will be transferred.

Officials of the South Carolina Department of Education said the property will be used as an Adult Center of Education and Opportunity School offering a variety of vocational courses and short-term projects. About 500 day-class students and 200 night-class students are expected to enroll for the regular courses, and auxiliary classes may bring total enrollment to 2,000.

Applications recently were received by WAA from veterans' organizations who wanted a portion of the base for housing, but, since arrangements already had been made to transfer the land and buildings to the state under its priority position, the applications could not be considered.

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LIAISON OFFICE - WAR ASSETS ADMINISTRATION
ROOM 5-B SENATE OFFICE BUILDING-EXT. 112C

X-52351

Dear Editor: Thank you for the help you have given us in the past. Please go the second mile with us by publishing the letter below and, if possible, urging editorially employers to encourage attendance.

THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
West Columbia, South Carolina
June 18, 1947

Dear Opportunity School Alumni and Friends:

Because addresses have changed so rapidly since the war, the newspapers have graciously consented to act as postmen for me. The news has just flashed over the wires that 998 acres of land, along with many buildings, at the Columbia Army Air Base have been turned over to the State for the Opportunity School and Trade School. At long last we have a permanent school made possible with the assistance of many people. I wish to thank all for their cooperation. Merely securing a plant will not make a great school. We must now go the second mile and interpret our offerings to those under high school level and to those who cannot attend college for four years.

The property is beautifully located in a wooded section six miles from Columbia. The hospital, our headquarters, has been turned into an attractive, inviting school-home and after the summer school it will have more charm because there are many homemaking projects to be developed as part of the learning program this year.

You will be interested to know that our first six months session will close Thursday afternoon with a picnic on the lake, at which time Mr. Jesse Anderson, Superintendent of Education, will address the group. Eighty-six pupils have been enrolled, forty-five of whom were veterans. The average progress made by the students during these six months was two years. Ten G. I.'s have already received high school certificates.

This letter brings to you, the alumni, a cordial invitation to attend the summer session, July 1 - 26, and bring with you a friend. If you cannot attend for the entire four weeks, come the first week or the last week, for special short courses have been arranged for this time. Where else could you get so much for the small cost of \$32.00--in the morning, stimulating study; in the afternoon, creative activities such as making beautiful things for the school, home and self, and developing the chorus and orchestra for commencement; in the evenings, recreation and visual education, all designed to arouse curiosity and increase efficiency to the end that we might have a better community and state. As formerly, the dining room will be a happy place, providing good fellowship and nutritious meals.

The general theme for the summer will be, "South Carolina on Parade." This will give students an opportunity to study our state--its history, its great men and women, its assets and liabilities, and the part we can play in making a better world. One day during the month the student body will be divided into groups. Each group will visit certain counties and, upon returning, they will pool their information on the entire state. For commencement there will be a lovely pageant. The Governor has already consented to take part.

Won't you, my friends, employers and others, who have helped through the years, continue your cooperation by encouraging attendance and, if necessary, by giving scholarship assistance? Let's all join hands to build a better South Carolina.

Sincerely yours,

WLG:ehb

Wil Lou Gray, Director

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Columbia, S. C.

October 23, 1946.

Dear Prospective Student:

A friend recently asked a noted writer for the daily papers how he was able to amuse, entertain, and inform his readers day after day. "Brother," he replied, "if you only knew! I tear my hair, I gnash my teeth, I comb encyclopedias for new ideas. There are days when it has taken me three hours to compose a single paragraph, and when the stint of 2,000 words is done, do I sit back and take it easy? Do I dash for a movie, or hasten to the golf course? I do not! I sit right down again and start jotting down ideas for tomorrow for if I didn't, I doubt if I would ever make a deadline in time."

Such effort explains the success of thousands of people who, like this man are willing to pay the price, willing to work and study while others play. There are thousands in our State today who cannot obtain promotion because for one reason or another, they failed to stay in school and so find themselves unprepared. We are trying to offer you a chance for increasing your ability through the Opportunity School. The program has been built on common needs and courses will be provided for those who have never gone to school at all or very little as well as for high school graduates. The students will be classified according to their abilities so that rapid progress can be made. In certain courses given for credit, previous educational ability must be considered, but the majority of courses are open to anyone who can do the work, and we have often found folk who have been to school only a short time capable of joining certain classes with pupils who completed high school.

The School is yours. Probably for a long time you have wanted to be helped in some specific way. The course of study can be changed if there is a demand. We hope you will study carefully the pamphlet, then invite other friends who might be interested in some course advertised to join you and enroll in the school.

If you are interested, fill out the blank on the reverse side of this page and mail to the address given on the blank.

Sincerely yours,
WIL LOU GRAY,
Director of Opportunity School.

GEO. W. HOPKINS,
Assistant Director of Opportunity
School.

8

ENROLLMENT BLANK

(Tear off and mail to Miss Wil Lou Gray, The Opportunity School, Columbia, S. C.)

I plan to attend the Opportunity School January 2, 1947
—April, 1947.*

I completed the _____ grade in the year of
_____ at _____ school.

I am _____ years old. My present work is

I would like to study the course or courses checked
below along with my general elementary and secondary
classes:

Agriculture
Bookkeeping
Shorthand
Typing
Building Construction
Auto Mechanics
Practical Nursing
Home Economics
Diversified Occupation
Freshman College Work

Name in Full _____

Street or Route _____

Town and State _____

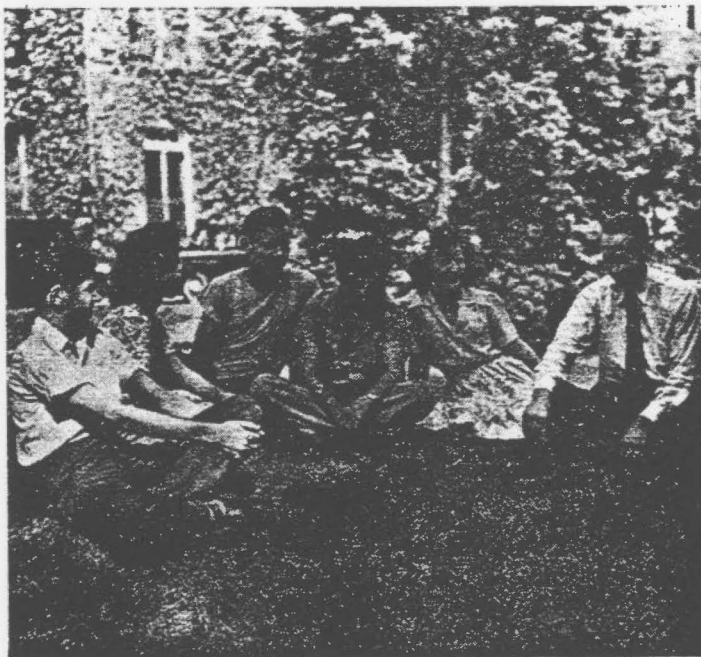
Character Reference _____

* If you are a veteran, have you secured your Certificate of Eligibility and Entitlement? _____

1947 PHOTOGRAPH LOOKING EAST FROM MIDLANDS TECH ACROSS OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL CAMPUS
DOWN BOSTON AVENUE PASSING AIRPORT HIGH SCHOOL TO AIRPORT BLVD. (HWY 302)



**Opportunity Awaits You
At**



A Veteran Shares Experiences with Students

**THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE
COLUMBIA, S. C.**

JANUARY 2, 1947

APRIL 2, 1947

Have you ever wished you could . . .

- 1. Continue your education?**
- 2. Improve your home surroundings?**
- 3. Fit yourself for promotion?**
- 4. Secure a high school diploma?**
- 5. Develop an effective personality?**
- 6. Help plan the post-war world?**
- 7. Understand the American way of life?**

If So

WRITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

To

**MISS WIL LOU GRAY
Director of Opportunity School**

**THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE
Columbia, South Carolina**

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Opportunity School is a South Carolina state supported school. Its



Public Speaking

purpose is to give ambitious folk who do not wish to go to day school and who are not prepared for college an opportunity to study anything they wish in the stimulating atmosphere of a school community. The school will offer courses for the following groups:

1. Veterans, their families, and other adults who were forced out of school before completing elementary or high school, and who wish to take vocational and trade courses with related general education subjects.
2. Those above high school who desire at least one year in a boarding school where they may study:
 - a. Regular freshman college work.
 - b. Vocational and trade courses with related general education subjects.

The Aim of the School will be to teach students **HOW TO LIVE**, as well as **HOW TO MAKE A LIVING**. They may work for credit or without credit but will be encouraged to take those courses which will make it possible for them to secure a State High School Certificate, at the same time learning a trade. In any case full time students will be expected to pursue a course of thirty hours per week.

The Faculty consists of twenty-five or more teachers selected because of their understanding and special fitness. They live in the same building with the pupils, thus contact between teacher and pupil tends to remove barriers and makes for a democratic exchange of ideas with profit to both. The faculty participate in all activities along with the students, providing stimulating friendships which carry over into life long after the student leaves the school.

Entrance Requirements are based on character and a desire for learning rather than on previous schooling. Pupils must have good health, good minds, and clean morals, the one rule being that they are expected to behave as ladies and gentlemen. Only those who are willing to abide by this standard, who are ambitious, cooperative, and wish all 'round improvement are wanted.

School Term: The school will be operated on a term basis of three months. It is planned to have three sessions each year of three months each and two sessions of one month. The two one-month sessions are designed to meet the needs of those who can attend only during vacation time. One one-month session is to be held during the winter months and the other during the summer months. These one-month sessions will give the same service as that formerly given by the summer Opportunity School.

Registration Begins at 10 o'clock on the morning of January 2, 1947 in the Administration Building. The formal opening exercises will be held at 3:30 o'clock on the following Sunday afternoon. Tests for classification will be given on January 3 and 4. Regular classes will begin January 5.

COSTS—

	In State		Out of State	
	Per Term	Per Month	Per Term	Per Month
Student Activity Fee	\$ 6.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 2.00
Maintenance Fee	9.00	3.00	9.00	3.00
Tuition			75.00	25.00
Medical	3.00	1.00	3.00	1.00
TOTAL	\$18.00	\$ 6.00	\$93.00	\$31.00

ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR BOARDING STUDENTS—

	Per Term	Per Month
Table Board	\$75.00	\$25.00
Room (Barracks Style)	15.00	5.00
Room (Individual, without private bath) ..	21.00	7.00
Suite of two rooms and bath for families (only a limited number available)	54.00	18.00

Room, board and fees for the term are payable in advance but monthly payments can be arranged. Since the cost of attending this school has been kept at a minimum, very few paid workers can be employed. Each student, therefore, will be expected to work a minimum of six hours per week, exclusive of his class duties.

Course of Study. The students, ranging all the way from those who have never gone to school through those who have graduated from high school, are classified into homeroom sections according to educational level, aptitude, and interest. A definite effort will be made to meet the individual needs of the student. A close coordination between the work in the homeroom, the individual subjects, trade classes and campus living activities will provide for the all-round growth and development of the student. Mature, serious minded students will be given an opportunity to advance as soon as they attain proficiency in the academic subjects or in their trade work. Standardized tests will be given every three months to determine proficiency in the academic subjects. Much practical work will be given to those pursuing trade education which will be a basis for judging proficiency in this area. Each student will be expected to take some work that will prepare him for making a better living. Agriculture, bookkeeping, shorthand, typing, building construction, auto mechanics,

and practical nursing, with related academic subjects, will be offered. Through a program of diversified occupations it probably will be possible to teach other trades by "on the job" training. It is hoped that provision can be made for training for almost any job requested.



Getting Out the Paper

High School

High School Credit: Since a high school diploma is more and more becoming a pre-requisite for employment, the State Board of Education has authorized the State High School Supervisor to offer a special qualifying examination for a State High School Certificate, which is the equivalent of a State High School Diploma. Eligibility is restricted to applicants who are eighteen and one-half years of age and over, and not enrolled in day high school. Recognizing this need, the Opportunity School, through its advanced courses, will endeavor to train students for these tests.



College Credit: Regular college freshman work will be offered through the Extension Division of the University of South Carolina. Students will enroll with and pay fees to the Extension Division. These courses will be offered on the campus of the Opportunity School.

Student Aid: Small sums of money have been contributed by interested folk for scholarship aid. This will be assigned, either in whole or in part, to pupils unable to pay their own way who present the best qualifications. Application blanks will be provided upon request.

(1) **Work Opportunities:** For those who find it necessary to earn a part of their expenses, the school will make a definite effort to secure for them profitable part time work.

Each Pupil Must Bring his own bedding and personal articles—four sheets, a pillow, if desired, four pillow cases, a bed spread, a quilt and two blankets, six or more towels, soap, toothbrush, and other toilet articles. If the pupil wishes to join the orchestra, he should bring a musical instrument. The men need plain, clean clothes, or overalls, for school and one suit for church. The women need simple inexpensive dresses for everyday and an outfit or two for dress.

Location: The school is located on Highway 215, two miles off Highway 21. The buildings are on a hill in a pretty wooded section. The school can be reached from Columbia Army Air Base bus which leaves the corner of Taylor and Main Street on the hour.

Attention, GI Joes: Since the education of so many persons was interrupted by the war, Uncle Sam believes that it is most important not only for his citizens to be educated, but that they be given an opportunity to receive the right kind of education, for only in this way can our Democracy live. The returning servicemen will be given the privilege of continuing their schooling with the aid of the government under the GI Bill.

Who is Eligible? Practically all veterans who have served over 90 days on or after September 16, 1940, and who have been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. *Veterans should secure a certificate of eligibility before leaving home.* This can be secured by executing Form 1950 and mailing to the Regional Office of the Veterans' Administration, Columbia, S. C.

How Long May a Veteran Continue His Education? Any eligible person is entitled to at least twelve months. In most cases a longer period is allowed.

What Part of the Expense Will the Government Bear? During his period of education, the veteran will receive tuition, fees, books, and necessary supplies. In addition the veterans will be paid for a full-time course a subsistence of \$65.00 per month, if single with no dependents, and \$90.00 per month if he has one or more dependents.

Where Will the Veteran Get This Education? The veteran may choose his own institution from a state approved list.

Is the Opportunity School on the State-Approved List? Yes. In developing the course of study for the Opportunity School, the returning veteran's needs have been uppermost. Every effort will be made to put the student in contact with outstanding teachers and leaders who will assist him in analyzing his own problems and capabilities and in mapping out a program of achievement toward which he might work.

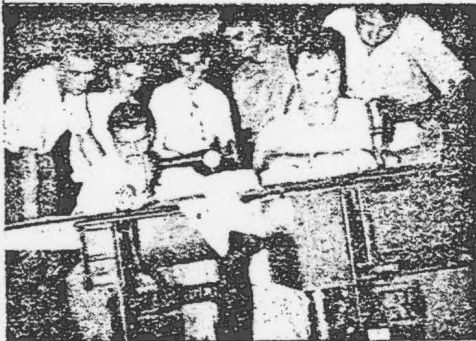
Can a GI Bring His Wife with him? Yes, there are fifty suites of two bedrooms with bath available. It is hoped to have some apartments ready by January 2, 1947.

Consumer
Education



Sew

Veterans
To Be
for Red Cross



The Pupils Speak for Themselves

2
" . . . My mind runs back to the vision that I had at the Erskine College Opportunity School in 1929. It was then and there that I saw for the first time what life had in store for me. I came away determined to re-enter school even though I was nineteen years of age and would have to enter the eighth grade. I am certainly happy over the outcome." J. M. was graduated from Newberry College before entering the Army as a chaplain, and rose to the rank of major. He and his wife are now studying at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, his expenses being paid under the G. I. Bill.

"I am general manager of a group of mills second to none in the textile industry. I started as a loom fixer in 1924, was promoted to second hand, then to overseer of weaving, then to superintendent, and came to my present position in 1938. I am certain the school work I did, along with the night school work at the Opportunity School, is responsible for my success." S. A., Opportunity School, 1922.

"At times I can't believe that what happened to me can really be true. Little more than five years ago I was only conscious of my job at home. The thoughts of school had never dawned on me since I had completed the grammar grades a few years before. My vacation I spent at the Opportunity School did great wonders to me. It is still hard to believe I received my high school certificate exactly fourteen months after I returned to books. Soon I am to receive my college degree. The spirit of the Opportunity School is responsible for all." R. C., Opportunity School, 1942-43, was graduated from Lander College, 1946.

"You may count on me for \$50 in scholarships this year." E. W., Opportunity School, 1933, was graduated from Winthrop College and a Red Cross worker overseas.

"Every new thing I attempt to do, or just ordinary assignments, I find myself making a connection with some experience at the Opportunity School, and I sometimes wonder just what I would be doing today, if it had not been for the chance I had to attend Opportunity School." L. B., Opportunity School, 1934-42, now secretary of a large textile plant.

A questionnaire mailed to alumni in the Armed Services brought these replies:

l
"If it hadn't been for the Opportunity School I would have been a grease monkey. As it is, I am now a pilot in the Air Corps . . . It taught me how to mix with others and to respect everyone's right to his own opinion . . . It taught me to save money, make friends, obey orders, and do my best in all my duties . . . It gave me better understanding of people, the importance of education, and the value of a good memory."

"To fail to prepare is to prepare to fail."

"Who looks ahead seldom falls behind"

= 6 =

Invest Your Vacation



A beautiful spot in which to work, play and rest

Attend The Opportunity School

COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE

WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

July 1-26, 1947

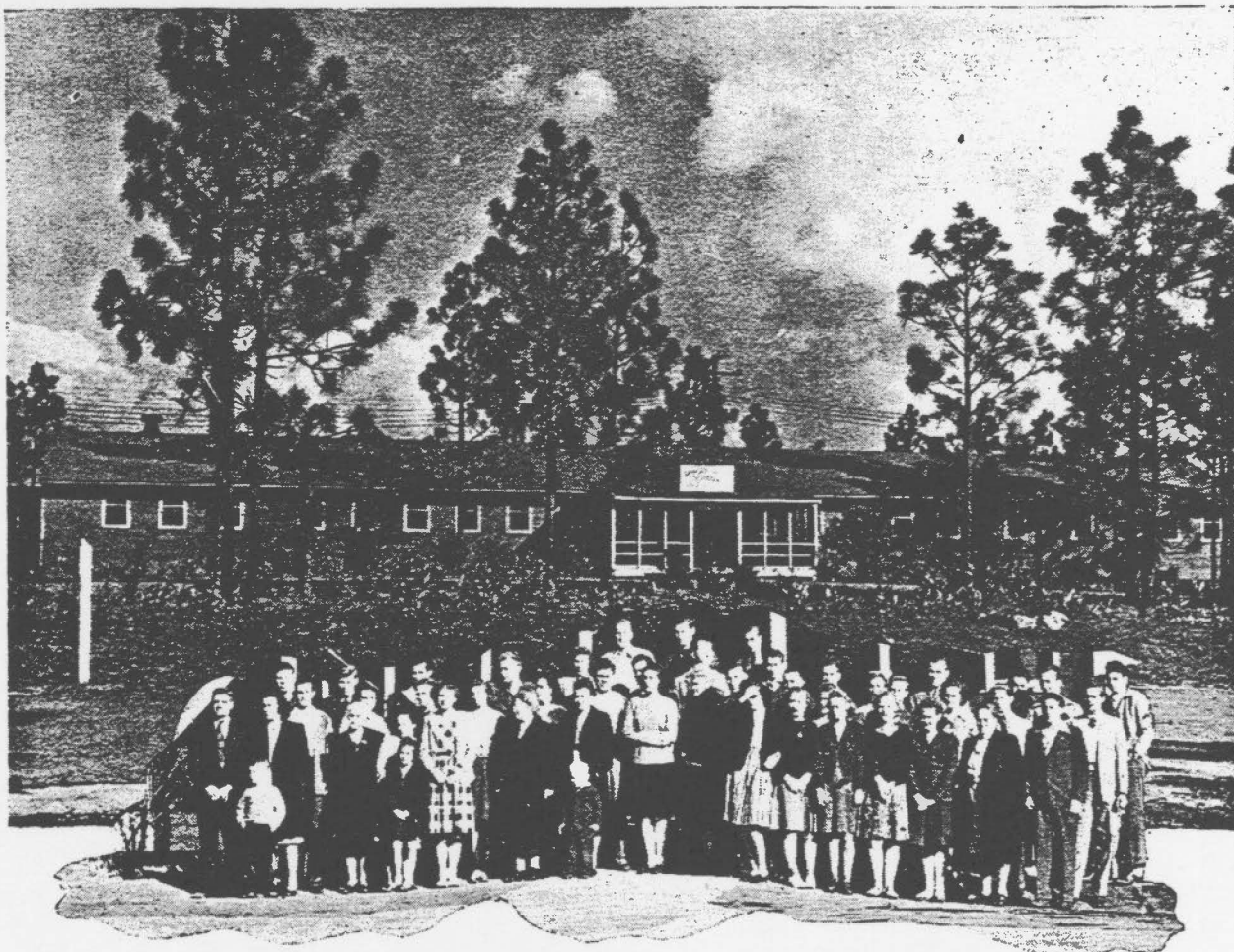
COST-\$32.00

DIVIDENDS PAYABLE FROM YOUR INVESTMENT

*Studies Leading To High School Certificate
Re-creative Vacation for the Whole Family*

*Development of Leadership Ability
Creative Leisure-time Skills*

Theme for 1947: SOUTH CAROLINA ON PARADE



OUR PERMANENT OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

By WIL LOU GRAY

For twenty-five years, the Opportunity School was dependent upon the colleges of the State for a place to hold its annual summer session. Now for the first time the school has a home of its own, located six miles from Columbia at the hospital area of the former Columbia Army Air Base.

Only those who attended the school in former years can realize what this will mean in possible accomplishments for the month. This year, no time will be lost in arranging classroom space, in organizing material for study and recreation, in equipping bare barracks as offices, lounges, a chapel and a library. Everything is ready to start from the first day—the books are in the library, food is in the pantry, and all that is lacking is an enthusiastic student body.

When the former Government property was turned over to the Opportunity School last fall, it was obviously an army camp. Now it is a school home, well-equipped, attractive, with an atmosphere truly homelike. Whoever enters the door of the Opportunity School feels that real, intelligent, worthwhile people live here.

Included in the physical plant are lounges, offices, dormitories, a library, a dining room, a chapel and a recreation hall. A large lake offers facilities for swimming and fishing. Inside the buildings are painted in bright colors, with cheerful curtains, pictures, and bric-a-brac. Columbia, the state capital, with its government offices and its facilities for amusement and study, is readily accessible to the School, yet not close enough to be a distraction.

Pupils of the permanent school, which opened in January, transformed the campsite into the home it is today. "Learning by doing," they painted, did carpentry and upholstery work, made curtains.

Out of a student body enrollment of eighty-two, forty have been veterans. Ten received their high school certificates this spring, although their average previous schooling was only eight and one-half years. The methods of the Opportunity School in teaching people, not subjects, made this possible.

Since 1921, more than five thousand South Carolinians have benefited from attendance at the Opportunity School. You, too, can take your share of these dividends.

Invest your 1947 vacation; attend the Opportunity School.

SUMMARY OF DR. GRAY'S REPORTS

Background

Organized at Tamassée as a vacation school for workers, was opened January 2, 1947 as a permanent year-round boarding school for adults. 1950-51

Purposes

It is the custom of the Opportunity School to encourage all capable students to work for a high school certificate, or for an Opportunity School diploma. 1950-51

The Opportunity School is a family school which serves both parents and children. During the five years, 240 children have been enrolled in the nursery school, sponsored by the Columbia Pilot Club; and 482 examinations were given through the Well Baby Clinic, sponsored by the maternal and child health division of the State Board of Health. The homemaking department has provided an excellent laboratory for the wives of at least 150 students. These combined services have given the students knowledge and training valuable in the making of lovelier, more harmonious homes and the establishment of better health habits. 1950-51

The school is serving as a conference center for civic affairs and as a laboratory for adult education. 1950-51

Visits have been the means of focusing attention on procedures, materials, methods, and the importance of continued education. 1950-51

In order to meet the needs of all students, the course of study in homemaking was based on the individual problems of each student and emphasized the value of the individual problems of each student and emphasized the value of the individual's contribution to the many homemaking responsibilities. 1950-51

The clinic provided an opportunity for the parents to learn to understand their children better and to provide more scientific care for them. 1950-51

Camp for Brownie Scout Troop Number 220 was sponsored by the Opportunity School. The activity not only developed skill in crafts, but also growth in character habits, and appreciations. In addition, it provided another excellent avenue for community cooperation and parent education. 1950-51

The Opportunity School is being used more and more as an adult education center and as a demonstration school for techniques and procedures in adult education. Here facilities of a modern school, homes, and apartments are being introduced to the families of the students on their visits in such a manner that they return home with new ideas, awakened desires and a realization of the part they can play in bringing about better conditions.

The Opportunity School was organized to give a second chance to adults forced to leave school before completing their elementary and secondary education. During 1951-52, the school enrolled 479 students. 1951-52

The administration and faculty views this widespread interest in its activities with mixed emotions. It is pleased that adult education is enjoying increased stature; proud that South Carolina has provided such a school and that students are enabled to broaden their outlook with these far-flung associations. However, it is concerned that those who need the school most are prevented from attending because the same forces which limited their education when young still exist.

Although there is no physical resemblance between those widely separated school terms, the purposes of the school remain unchanged--to give ambitious persons who have passed their sixteenth birthday another chance to complete elementary and high school education missed during youth. 1953-54

Primarily, the school's aim is to provide a "second chance" for education for those who left school during youth without completing elementary or high school. 1954-55

It provides year-round training for ambitious adults interested in continuing their elementary or high school education or in taking refresher courses for college. It provides regular night classes for non-resident students who can devote only leisure time to study. It serves as a center for professional groups wishing to hold conferences or workshops. It cooperates with other agencies in providing basic education courses, particularly for the physically handicapped. 1955-56

Aims

To secure a diploma, a student must pass the state high school examination with credit and further demonstrate (a) ability to speak and write correctly, (b) general knowledge of South Carolina History, and (c) qualities of good citizenship. 1950-51

The course of study endeavors to assist the student to master the tools of education--reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, social studies, and science. The school itself provides a good laboratory for homemaking and family living since the pupils do a large amount of the work. The chapel programs by homeroom groups and invited speakers, followed by classroom discussions vitalize the daily program. The various campaigns promoted by the Student Council and homerooms are an avenue for excellent civic training. Recreational programs and church activities afford effective training for leadership. 1950-51

The curriculum was as broad as life's needs. The course of study stressed the mastery of the tools of education--reading, writing, spelling, social sciences, arithmetic, science and the amenities of a good life. In addition to these basic subjects, special instructors taught ceramics, art, and music. Every situation of the day was capitalized for teaching.

The chapel programs, held twice each week, are planned so that every student may participate in the singing and in the panel and general discussions. 1951-52

The various campaigns for civic needs, such as the Community Chest, the Tuberculosis Stamp Sale, and the Red Cross Membership Drive, are promoted by the student council and homerooms and serve as stimulating examples of citizenship. The teaching was based on the central theme, "Your Government and You." 1951-52

Cooperation

The first high school credit given at the Opportunity School was in 1941 at Clemson

before the state high school certificate program had been initiated. Through the courtesy of the Clemson-Calhoun High School, two diplomas were awarded on the basis of the results of standardized tests and an oral examination in the presence of the state high school supervisor, the superintendent of the Clemson-Calhoun High School, two high school teachers and the director of the Opportunity School. The men who received these diplomas are successful businessmen today, one in the field of printing, the other with the soil conservation service of a neighboring state. 1950-51

A total of \$36,817.02 has been contributed directly to the Opportunity School by clubs, organizations, churches, missionary societies, individuals. The money has been used to assist several hundred students deprived of elementary or secondary education. Follow-up studies show that those assisted by these contributions are enriching the civic and economic life of the state. 1950-51

The Opportunity School cooperated with other department and agencies in promoting these activities by providing the facilities and assisting with the programs. 1953-54

Philosophy

It is difficult to estimate the value of the Opportunity School to the State because education should not be evaluated in dollars and cents. However, according to Lord's formula "Relation of Education and Income," the 164 graduates of the Opportunity School alone will earn approximately \$8,000,000 more during their lifetimes than they would have earned had they remained on a ninth grade level. 1950-51

Far more than increased earning power, the broadening influences of education have deep significance, as seen in changed lives, happier homes, and more intelligent citizenship. 1950-51

The Opportunity School could not have existed had not individuals and organizations provided money for scholarships. Those who need most to attend are shut out by the same cause which prevented day school attendance--lack of money. Therefore, the greatest need of the Opportunity School is for scholarships. 1950-51

"Eight hours for work, eight hours for sleep, and eight hours for what you will." Since the Opportunity School believes the eight hours for "what you will" plays a great part in the all-round development of an individual, much emphasis is placed on leisure-time activities. Under the direction of the social dean, the recreation hall is open for an hour per evening for three evenings a week. It is also open for three hours each on Friday and Saturday evenings when group discussions on social conduct, games, folk dancing, and seasonal parties are much enjoyed. Another event which has become traditional is the progressive supper--when different courses are served in various homes and dormitories. One of last year's highlight evenings was an Indian dinner served according to their custom. Another was a real smorgasbord a la Sweden. A social committee from the student council assists in planning and conducting these and such other events as tours, entertaining groups from other schools, swimming, and lakeside suppers. 1951-52

Three religious services are held each week under the sponsorship of the school-- Sunday morning church school classes, Sunday evening worship service and Wednesday night prayer service.... An outstanding event of the year was Religious Emphasis Week when excellent speakers, made available through the University of South Carolina similar program, visits the school. Another outstanding occasion was a series of six services on "What It Means to BE a Christian." 1951-52

In cooperation with the Council of International Clubs, the Opportunity School enter-

tained 56 foreign students attending South Carolina Colleges.

Over 500 persons, including 495 adults, dissatisfied with their education and determined to do something about it, registered at the Opportunity School during the year 1953-54. They came from homes varying from share-croppers' cabins, to affluent city residences; from large and small South Carolina communities in 36 counties and from seventeen states. In addition to these registered students, more than 2,000 adults attended workshops, conferences, and institutes of various types, lasting from one day to two months. 1953-54

The administration and faculty views this widespread interest in its activities with mixed emotions. It is pleased that adult education is enjoying increased stature; proud that South Carolina has provided such a school and that students are enabled to broaden their outlook with these far-flung associations. However, it is concerned that those who need the school most are prevented from attending because the same forces which limited their education when young still exist. 1954-54

Such a chance almost invariably involves more than textbook needs. Many adults who missed classroom lessons also missed lessons in citizenship, appreciation of the good things of life, and straight-thinking. Recognizing these basic needs of citizens, the Opportunity School continually stresses the development of the whole person by combining with its classroom studies direct and indirect aids to a broader outlook and a more worthwhile manner of life. Students are encouraged to develop their abilities and personalities to the point where they become more highly valuable members of their communities. 1953-54

Regardless of education, anyone is bound to learn something from life. These experience factors are taken into account when students enter the Opportunity School by classifying them according to standardized tests which attempt to measure scientifically what the student has learned from the school of life.... A student may progress as fast as his ability, initiative, industry and determination will permit. 1953-54

Rapid progress is common among these adults for several reasons: they have a pre-determined goal; their time at the school is often limited by financial considerations; they are inspired by associating with others of comparable age with similar problems. 1953-54

Whatever the reasons for leaving school, the person who later returns to renew his education finds it necessary to make adjustments. To assist with this adjustment, the school broadens its scope of instruction to include basic requirements of good citizenship and basic social attributes. Every situation at the school is considered a "learning situation," whether it be in the classroom, on a work detail, or at a social function. Lessons in honesty, fairplay, cooperation, and industriousness are learned in practical situations of work and play in and out of the classrooms. 1954-55

The school sees that each student moves as rapidly as his achievement will justify. 1954-55

The school was originally started as an experimental vacation school for workers. The need for such a school had been indicated by certain census and World War I statistics which pointed up the fact that South Carolina's percent of illiteracy was 18.1, ranking below every state save Louisiana. In addition, this State had no labor law or

school attendance law and children were leaving school before the age of fourteen to go into factories and mills for as long as eleven hours a day. Such a situation was aggravating the literacy rate of our State and contributing to health problems. Out of these facts grew the idea of establishing a residential school which could give a second chance to boys and girls, men and women. 1955-56

Combined with the school's academic aims and achievements, accent on personal traits, like those listed, results in the development of a better informed, better qualified citizen.... The permanent Opportunity School provides a campus-type atmosphere which is conducive to the attainment of these objectives. 1955-56

Keeping abreast of educational developments, the Opportunity School expanded and improved its curriculum and methods over the years. But amazingly, there has been no change in its basic purposes: to provide the academic means by which those who did not complete their education during youth may acquire it in later years; and to awaken in each student a desire to be a better informed, better qualified citizen with high standards of personal and community conduct. 1956-57

The key word in South Carolina has become development for the benefit of the economy. The most significant wealth of any community is its developed human resources. Latent brain power, like gold in a mountain, requires an investment to realize its benefit. There is an immediate need for educated men and women. Decisions and operations cannot wait until our present young people grow up. When these needs are not answered, the economy of the community suffers. The community suffers too when an under-educated adult wastes time or materials on the job, abuses our national resources and public facilities, votes unwisely, becomes the victim of selfish promoters, or conducts his private affairs so that his family becomes a charge upon our public services. 1959-60

The general purpose of adult education is that the quality of life of the individual be improved for the benefit of society. 1959-60

Admission Policy

The youngest pupil was fourteen, admitted for special reasons; the oldest pupil was sixty-four, a man who attended school with the aid of an insurance policy of a son who had been killed in Korea. The average age was twenty-six years. 1950-51

The educational level ranged from no schooling through high school; 140 were on the primary level, 245 were on the intermediate level, and 133 were in high school, with an average grade level of sixth grade-sixth month for the winter session and seventh grade for the summer month. 1950-51

The administration relies heavily upon the alumni for locating and enrolling students. Frequent correspondence, both personal and group, and special programs arranged for them to serve to maintain the contact between the school and the alumni. 1954-55

Objectives

The school seeks as earnestly as ever to bring its students an awakening of self-faith, new standards of personal growth, improved personality, desire for home improvement and home ownership, a culture pattern which includes a desire for education, high health standards and practices, better food habits, and new appreciation of the arts, nature, orderly living, citizenship, personal relationships. 1955-56

Methods

Ten months of actual teaching was provided by the Opportunity School which is never closed. There were two semesters of 4½ months each and a month summer term. The vacations for administrative officers and staff were so staggered that there was always someone on duty for conference or consultation. 1951-52

Students were classified and promoted on the basis of standardized tests administered by the Opportunity School. Those falling in the seventh grade level or under remained with their homeroom teachers throughout the morning. Those on high school level could, to some extent, choose their subjects. The mornings were devoted to basic work while elective subjects were offered in the afternoons. 1951-52

Each student is required to do six hours of work per week in the buildings or on the campus or school farm. In this way, students are given an appreciation of the value of work well done and an understanding of personal responsibility in making this institution a clean, orderly, attractive, happy school home.

Qualifications For Employment

The school has been fortunate in obtaining personnel who were not only trained in techniques, but who possessed sympathy and understanding which enabled them to help the students solve the complex problems confronting them.

In 1951-52 the average age of the students was twenty-six.

Financing

Contributions from churches, American Legion Auxiliary, clubs and individuals. The accomplishments of the Opportunity School have been made possible by the cooperation of national and state agencies; civic, social and fraternal organizations; and individuals, assisted by the church, the radio, the press; and the faculty and the student body of the school. Each has made its individual contribution, without which the school could not have existed. 1950-51

ALUMNA STORY
GLORIA REEVES CLARK
FROM
ADAMS RUN, SC
AT THE
WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
1952

It was probably 1951 when I first heard of "The Opportunity School". It was the summer session of 1952 that I attended.

It was quite an experience to say the least. Prior to that time my schooling was limited to 7th grade in a one room school house. Even back then I did like to read, which proved to be a help.

COS (Carolina Opportunity School) schooling was the Three R's plus much more. We had assembly in a large room (Auditorium), meals in another area and say our blessings. I worked in the kitchen with serving and clean up. Mostly I washed glasses. There were classes in English, math science and S. C. History.

Mrs. Clara Stroud taught English. There was one man teacher and Mrs. Reis was in the Library. Dorm life was a new experience. Also, single beds, 4 to a room girls only and a shower for six. We walked everywhere. Midweek either Wednesday or Thursday we had an evening vesper service and on Sunday mornings we walked to a little church down the hill. The Rev Loren Mead was the Pastor there.

On one occasion we went out to a lake for a swim. I remember winning a candy bar for coming in first in one race. (Lake behind National Guard Armory on Platt Springs Road, West Columbia, SC)

The school itself was housed in an old army barracks...an old hospital...maybe. Long halls with rooms off to the sides, upon entering there was a larger area to the right for sitting... and smaller area to the left. Maybe offices. On the wall in the one small room was a picture with the word "etymology" on it. (meaning: the study of the history of words) Such a curious word, one I will never forget. Reading and learning has been an ongoing process since.

My stay at COS was an eye opener, an awakening an introduction to a world beyond what I had experienced up to that point.

Wish I could say everything went smooth after that and all my trials were happy, not so.

After COS I attended Richland County School of Nursing and dropped out before completion.

It was midway of raising my family that I entered Roper Hospital School of Practical Nursing in Charleston, SC. This program I completed and worked there 27 years before retiring March 1996.

Gloria Reeves Clark

SUBMITTED BY
GEORGE M. SMITH
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
WIL LOU GRAY OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

February 1, 1954

Mr. James Miles
Clemson College
Clemson, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Miles:

This is a very special invitation for you to come to the Opportunity School for a one-day session on February 15 as the guest of Miss Wil Lou Gray. The purpose of the meeting which I am calling is to discuss with a few other selected friends ways and means of setting up the Opportunity School on a more permanent basis. Miss Gray will retire in 1955 and it is expedient that those who have worked with her so loyally and faithfully through the years help to think through this problem: "What will happen to the school when Miss Gray retires?"

Many have suggested that it function under a board of trustees as other state institutions. Others feel that this large plant valued almost at two million dollars should be used not only for general adult education but also as a rehabilitation center and for vocational training.

You have exhibited your interest in this unique project and in the excellent work of Miss Gray. That is why we are asking you to sit in on this "planning for the future session". We need your thinking.

Yours truly,

J. C. Holler, Director
Division of Instruction

JCH:

P. S. The meeting will meet at 10:30 and the adjournment will be set by the group in the afternoon.

Calendar No. H. 1115

Introduced by EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Printer's No. 40—H.

Read the first time January 17, 1957.

THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 1115), to create the South Carolina Opportunity School and to provide for the administration thereof, respectfully

REPORT:

That they have duly and carefully considered the same, and recommend
2 that the same do pass.

JAS. P. HARRELSON, for Committee.

A BILL

To Create the South Carolina Opportunity School and to Provide for the Administration Thereof

Whereas, since the State of South Carolina had no functioning compulsory school attendance law prior to 1937, thousands of citizens of the State failed to complete even the elementary school grades, resulting in many citizens with less than an eighth grade education; and

5 *Whereas*, from a practical viewpoint this amounts to more than one out of every four adults in the State being functionally illiterate, which is dangerous to our democracy as such citizens are open to any "ism", especially Communism; and

9 *Whereas*, according to the 1950 United States Census only fifty per cent of the pupils of sixteen and seventeen years of age are enrolled in the schools of the State in comparison with a national average of seventy-one per cent; and

12 *Whereas*, on the third day of September, 1947, the United States Government, through the War Assets Administration, conveyed to the State of South Carolina nine hundred and ninety-eight and three one hundredths acres, more or less, to be used for a multiple educational institution known as the "South Carolina Opportunity School" and the "South Carolina Trade School";
17 and

18 *Whereas*, the Opportunity School came into being in 1921, at Tamassee,
19 South Carolina, with an enrollment of twenty-one pupils; and

20 *Whereas*, the school has continued to function each year since 1921 at
21 various schools and colleges throughout the State wherever space could be
22 obtained until 1945; and

23 *Whereas*, since 1947, the South Carolina Opportunity School has occupied
24 the property conveyed by the War Assets Administration, jointly with the
25 South Carolina Trade School. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina :

SECTION 1. The South Carolina Opportunity School is hereby author-
2 ized and shall be located in Lexington County on the property formerly oc-
3 cupied by the Army Air Force and known as the Columbia Air Base, which
4 property the State of South Carolina received by the quitclaim deed on Sep-
5 tember, 1947, for the joint use of the South Carolina Opportunity School and
6 the South Carolina Trade School. The school shall provide year-round train-
7 ing for adults interested in continuing their elementary or high school edu-
8 cation, or in taking refresher courses preparatory to college, with emphasis
9 on personal development, vocational efficiency and effective citizenship. It
10 shall provide night classes for nonresident students who are able to devote
11 only part time to study, and shall cooperate with the rehabilitation department
12 in providing basic general education and pre-vocational courses for the physi-
13 cally handicapped. In addition it shall serve as an adult education center coop-
14 erating with agencies and organizations interested in continuing education
15 and in-service training.

SEC. 2. The Opportunity School shall be under the management and
2 control of a board of eleven trustees, seven of whom shall be elected by the
3 Legislature, and two of whom shall be elected by the Alumni Association of
4 the school. The trustees so elected shall be citizens of the State who are in-
5 terested in the aims and ambitions of the school. The tenth member shall be
6 the State Superintendent of Education who shall serve *ex officio*. The eleventh
7 member shall be the Governor who shall be a member of the board, *ex officio*,
8 and shall be chairman. Members of the board who are elected by the Legis-
9 lature shall serve for terms of four years and until their successors shall be
10 appointed and shall qualify, except that two of those first elected shall serve
11 for two years, two for three years, and three for four years. The two elected
12 by the Alumni Association shall serve for four years.

SEC. 3. The board of trustees shall employ a director who shall serve
2 for such term and under such conditions as may be prescribed by the board.
3 The director shall employ all personnel, subject to approval by the board of
4 trustees, and shall define their duties. The director shall prescribe the courses
5 of study and make all rules and regulations for the government of the school
6 and shall be responsible for its operation and management within the limita-
7 tions of appropriations provided by the General Assembly.

SEC. 4. The board of trustees is hereby declared to be a body politic,
2 under the name and style of the South Carolina Opportunity School. It shall
3 have a seal, which it may change at its discretion, and in its name it may con-
4 tract for, purchase and hold property for the purposes provided for in this
5 act. It may take any property or money given or conveyed by deed, devised
6 or bequeathed to the school, and hold the same for its benefit and use. The
7 conditions of any such gifts or conveyances shall in no case be inconsistent
8 with the purposes of the school, and the board shall not by the acceptance
9 thereof incur any obligation on the part of the State. It shall securely invest
10 all funds and keep all property which may come into its possession. It may sue
11 and be sued in its name and may do all things necessary to carry out the
12 provisions of this act.

SEC. 5. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby re-
2 pealed.

SEC. 6. This act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor.

—XX—

(R50, H1115)

**An Act To Create The South Carolina Opportunity School
And To Provide For The Administration Thereof.**

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cation, or in taking refresher courses preparatory to college, with emphasis on personal development, vocational efficiency and effective citizenship. It shall provide night classes for nonresident students who are able to devote only part time to study, and shall cooperate with the rehabilitation department in providing basic general education and pre-vocational courses for the physically handicapped. In addition it shall serve as an adult education center cooperating with agencies and organizations interested in continuing education and in-service training.

SECTION 2. The Opportunity School shall be under the management and control of a board of eleven trustees, seven of whom shall be elected by the Legislature, and two of whom shall be elected by the Alumni Association of the school. The trustees so elected shall be citizens of the State who are interested in the aims and ambitions of the school. The tenth member shall be the State Superintendent of Education who shall serve ex officio. The eleventh member shall be the Governor who shall be a member of the board, ex officio, and shall be chairman. Members of the board who are elected by the Legislature shall serve for terms of four years and until their successors shall be appointed and shall qualify, except that two of those first elected shall serve for two years, two for three years, and three for four years. The two elected by the Alumni Association shall serve for four years.

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SECTION 4. The board of trustees is hereby declared to be a body politic, under the name and style of the South Carolina Opportunity School. It shall have a seal, which it may change at its discretion, and in its name it may contract for, purchase and hold property for the purposes provided for in this act. It may take any property or money given or conveyed by deed, devised or bequeathed to the school, and hold the same for its benefit and use. The conditions of any such gifts or conveyances shall in no case be inconsistent with the purposes of the school, and the board shall not by the acceptance

thereof incur any obligation on the part of the State. It shall securely invest all funds and keep all property which may come into its possession. It may sue and be sued in its name and may do all things necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

SECTION 5. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor.

In the Senate House the 12th day of February

In the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-seven.

ERNEST F. HOLLINGS,
President of the Senate.

SOLOMON BLATT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Approved the 13th day of February, 1957.

GEORGE BELL TIMMERMAN, JR.,
Governor.

The Opportunity School
ANNUAL REPORT
School year 1957-1958

CHANGE...BUT NO CHANGE

Three developments lend special significance to this 1957-1958 annual report of the Opportunity School.

The first development is a series of changes in administration, for during the calendar 12 months preceding this report the Opportunity School has had no fewer than three directors. Miss Wil Lou Gray, beloved founder of the school and its director for more than 30 years, retired only a year ago in July, and was succeeded by T.D. Watkins for an agreed-upon tenure of one year. Jesse S. Agnew succeeded Mr. Watkins prior to the opening of the 1958 summer session, thus bringing the number of directors to three within the short span of a single year.

Mr. Watkins, of course, retired as he had planned, after serving the Opportunity School eleven years, most of them as principal and assistant director during the tenure of Dr. Gray.

Mr. Agnew, formerly head of the Speech-Hearing program in the South Carolina Department of Education, comes to the Opportunity School after a long-time association with the school, and with a full appreciation of its accomplishments, traditions and objectives.

This first development, then, leads quite naturally to the second which can be summed up briefly: No change.

Since Mr. Agnew and Mr. Watkins had both had previous associations with the school and with the policies developed through the many years the school operated under the direction of Miss Gray, it is obvious that the Opportunity School continued on a course charted through many previous years, although three pilots shared the helm during the past twelve months.

In a further development of the "no" change theme, it is noteworthy that the school's three directors in 1957-1958 agree that South Carolina's need for the unique and comprehensive services of the Opportunity School are undiminished. Every highway, every byway in South Carolina leads to the discovery of more and more persons 21 years of age and older whose lives are narrowly circumscribed by lack of elementary or high-school education, and whose personal happiness, citizenship contribution and earnings are severely curtailed thereby.

The third development is also of particular significance: This is the first annual report of the Opportunity School to be made to its governing body, the Board of Trustees. In past years, of course, the report has been made to the Department of Education, of which the school was a part from its experimental session in 1921, through the summer session of 1957.

This new autonomy granted by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1957, has already proved of inestimable value in continuing the humanitarian efforts of the school. For the first time, the school has as its governing body a group of persons primarily and undividedly interested in the Opportunity School, and whose unswerving purpose and devotion to its ideals have been demonstrated continually throughout this first year of independent operation.

THE SCHOOL'S HERITAGE

What does it take to found a school which will be still thriving, vigorous and useful after nearly 40 years? An abundance of money? (The Opportunity School's first experimental session at the Tamassee D.A.R. School in 1921 was financed by \$100 from the State of South Carolina, \$100 from the illiteracy commission, a few privately donated dollars, and food which came as "tuition" from students, and from kindly residents of the Walhalla-Seneca community.)

Ivy-walled buildings on a spacious campus? (From 1921 until 1946 the Opportunity School was held on various campuses, first at Tamassee, and then in the facilities of colleges- Lander, Erskine, Anderson, Clemson, Columbia. Not until 1946 did the school realize its dream of acquiring a permanent year-around site, the nearly 1,000 acres and many corridor-connected buildings which formerly housed the hospital at the Columbia Army Air Base. The War Assets Administration transferred the property outright to the State of South Carolina in 1957, after payment of only \$9,376.34, which was virtually balanced by the fact that Miss Gray did not submit an expense account for the 1957-1958 school year. The property cost the United States \$1,446,798 and its fair value at time of occupancy was estimated at \$94,260. The acquisition of this tremendous real estate asset was the direct result of Miss Gray's personal efforts, and personal sacrifice.

Determination and dedication of its leaders? Yes, indeed! From a horse-and- buggy beginning--literally--Miss Gray developed the Opportunity School into an adequately housed, thriving educational facility, staffed by eminently qualified faculty and administrative personnel, and aimed at a great humanitarian goal, improving the lot of mankind.

The present administration realized this tribute to Miss Gray is inadequate, for no literary expression could do justice to the heritage she has left the school, or to the invaluable contribution she has continued to make as Director Emeritus since her "retirement!" Nevertheless, it is fitting to recognize her great work in this annual report, since previous reports were hers, and hence veiled her accomplishments in modesty.

More than 10,000 persons have attended the Opportunity School. Of these 10,000 plus alumni, an impressive number have continued their education and entered the professions--medicine, law, education, pharmacy, nursing, journalism, for example.

But for every one of these there have been hundreds who improved their lot in life less spectacularly, but equally important, by becoming better citizens, qualifying for job advancement, learning appreciations of high health standards and by acquiring, in general, the knowledge, skills and outlook which make life happy and fruitful.

GOALS --TODAY AND YESTERDAY

Usefulness to the student has been the unwritten and unvoiced--but nevertheless evident--aim of the Opportunity School curriculum through the years. On the one hand there have been those subjects which are essential to academic progress by paving the way for the acquisition of a state high school certificate and for successful subsequent attendance at schools of higher learning.

Virtually as important have been classes of particularly practical nature. For example, in the early days the girls learned the essentials of the millinery art and some pursued it later as means of earning a living. Woodworking and home economics are now being taught in this practical vein, and ceramics, art and music are available as ways of developing appreciations which many Opportunity School students would have gained otherwise.

Today's curriculum, expanded and improved over earlier years, continues to be guided by the school's basic purpose: to provide the academic means by which those who did not acquire basic education during youth may complete it in later years; and to develop in students those attributes which are the trade-mark of the qualified, respected, productive, happy citizen.

COURSE OF STUDY

The basic skills of education--spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic--receive heavy emphasis in the Opportunity School curriculum, for these are the foundations upon which knowledge is built. However, all subjects needed for the acquisition of a State High School Certificate are taught on all levels from the lowest elementary grade through high school. Certain commerce subjects are now being taught, in addition to those supplemental studies previously mentioned--home economics, woodworking, art, ceramics and music.

The school's method of determining educational level and of "promoting" students is unusual, in comparison with the public schools. Entering students are given a standardized test which indicates the student's educational level. This test takes into account not only what the student learned in previous years in the classroom, but also the lessons learned in the "school of life." The tests enable the student to be placed in the classroom level most appropriate to his needs; subsequent tests, administered periodically, allow the student to advance as rapidly as his ability and industry warrant. This method has disclosed a repeatedly borne-out "rule-of-thumb" --intelligent, ambitious, industrious students over 21 average approximately a year's progress every three months.

The State High School Certificate is obtained by successfully undergoing an examination administered by the University of South Carolina. Students attempt this examination at such time as the faculty believes qualifications have been met. In addition, the school awards its own diploma to those who pass the high school certificate examination with a scaled score of 50 or higher (a minimum of 47 is required to obtain a certificate) and who demonstrate special proficiency in South Carolina history, English and citizenship.

FACULTY AND STAFF

It is unlikely that any other aspect of teaching is as rewarding--and demanding--as instruction of adults in elementary and high school courses. The needs of the adult student are quite different from those of the child and youth, requiring special understanding on the part of the teacher. The rewards, however, are great, because for these students this "second chance" for an education missed during youth is in all probability a "last" chance as well. Faculty and staff change little from year to year, an indication that teachers and administrative personnel possess the necessary specialized requirements and attitude, and are dedicated to the accomplishment of the school's aims.

STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

It is understandable that the preponderance of Opportunity School students come from homes with limited financial assets. Affluent parents, probably well-educated themselves, would hardly countenance less academic effort on the part of their children than completion of high school.

But in addition to the students who come from low-income farm and industrial families, there are some who did not drop out of school for economic reasons.

The Opportunity School, in its nearly 40 years of serving the educational needs of adults, finds that these are the principal reasons why its students did not complete public school courses: indifference, their own or their parent's; economic pressure to supplement the family income; health. Virtually every student falls into one of these categories.

Increasingly, in recent years, the school has accepted persons with health problems or physical handicaps. Many of these are polio victims, and wheelchairs are a common sight in the school's lengthy corridors. Besides serving the handicapped students themselves, their presence has also served to stimulate understanding and cooperation among the other students, many of whom voluntarily assist the handicapped.

Minimum age for students is 16. There is no maximum age, and a great many students have been in the grandparent category. Among the most inspiring and touching experiences the faculty and administration encounter is the quest of older persons for knowledge which many persons take for granted: enough reading skill to peruse the Bible, for example.

An active loyal Alumni Association is one of the school's great assets. The association has contributed immeasurably to many of the school's projects, morally and materially. It would be helpful if more former students participated in the Alumni Association, but the percentage of participants is probably as good--perhaps better--than that experienced elsewhere.

EDUCATION CENTER

Opportunity School facilities are particularly adaptable to residential or "day" conferences or training programs. Dormitory space and dining room facilities are available, and the school is sufficiently remote to encourage full participation without excessive distractions. The school's facilities for meetings of this nature are open to sponsors of worthwhile projects.

VISITORS

The school has had visitors from many nations, as well as from other states, and of course South Carolina and neighboring communities.

Visitors from faraway places often are directed to the school by federal agencies, and sometimes remain as long as a week, observing the methods and facilities. In return, the students gain from these visitors first-hand knowledge of distant points and lands which could not be equalled by other means.

SPEECH-HEARING THERAPY

A few years ago, Mr. Agnew (now the school's director) inaugurated at the school a residential therapy program for children with speech and hearing defects. The child, accompanied by a parent, remains at the school a full week, during the summer session. Each of four weeks is dedicated to a special speech-hearing problem.

This program was held at the school again this year.

NURSERY

A nursery is maintained during the summer session, enabling parents to attend classes while their children receive competent care and supervision.

WELL BABY CLINIC

A Well Baby Clinic is held at the school throughout the year, sponsored by The City Union of King's Daughters. Dr. William Weston Jr., is the physician in charge, assisted by the Lexington County Health Department and the school's nurse.

EXTENDED SERVICES

Women students, wives of male students, and women of the community have benefited from the school's continuing service through its home economics courses. Objectives are to stimulate improvement of family health, family-school relationships, consumer knowledge and budgeting-spending.

The Home Economics Department has also influenced students by personal counseling, encouraging improvement to living areas, instructing in the making and renovating of clothing, and acquainting students and community residents with the fundamentals of homemaking.

THE "WHY" OF THE SCHOOL

The Opportunity School stands ready to serve a wide segment of South Carolina citizens who fall into these categories.

- * Actual illiterates
- * "Functional illiterates" with fourth-grade or less education
- * Persons seeking a high school certificate
- * High school graduates seeking a refresher course before entering college

Approximately two-thirds of the children who enter the first grade in any year in South Carolina public school drop out before entering the twelfth. These drop-outs have little hope of attaining any real success in life. Not only is the Opportunity School unique because it is the only school in this state providing residential elementary and secondary education for adults, but it is also unique among educational institutions in the United States: no other American school offers its unusual combination of residence instruction, promotion by examination, and curriculum designed to lead to a state high school certificate.

LOOKING AHEAD

Just as a foundation forms a base upon which a house is built, so does a heritage provide a solid footing for progress. Proud of the past, encouraged by the present and confident of the future, the Opportunity School is today better able to plan ahead than ever before, after a year of operation under its autonomous government by its Board of Trustees.

So much has been done by the school's leaders in the past, and yet much remains to be done, including undertakings which could only be attempted under independent status.

The school administration, staff and faculty look forward to the future as a challenge which will be met with all the vigor and ability at their command.

ANNUAL REPORT 1957-1958

	Day School			Night School			Grand Total		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
Enrollment	63	158	221	19	103	122	82	261	343
Average Age	33	22	27.2	25	27	26	29	24	26
Under 21	34	70	104	6	9	15	40	79	119
Over 21	88	29	117	13	94	107	101	123	224
Mothers Dead	19	26	45	3	20	23	22	46	68
Fathers Dead	27	37	64	7	35	42	34	72	106
Number Married	23	40	63	18	78	96	41	118	159
Number Members of Church	62	120	182	16	80	96	78	200	278
Pupils 5th grade and under	14	23	37	2	14	16	16	37	53
Pupils 6th-7th and 8th grade	19	83	102	1	42	43	20	125	145
Pupils 9th through 12th grade	30	52	82	16	47	63	46	99	145
Average Grade	7.6	7.6	7.6	9.8	8.0	8.9	8.7	7.8	8.2
Number Veterans		68	68		53	53		121	121
Former Pupils	30	69	99	1	54	55	31	123	154

SOUTH CAROLINA OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

Revenue Statement
1957-58

SOURCE

GENERAL FUND:

Tuition.....	887.50
Total (General Fund).....	887.50

SPECIAL REVENUE:

Balance from Previous Year.....	4,386.08
Books and Supplies.....	1,731.87
Quarters.....	8,654.64
Board.....	29,547.18
Maintenance Fees.....	7,248.86
Medical Fees.....	2,899.54
Activity Fees.....	4,349.31
VA Report Handling Fees.....	749.00
Farm.....	25,685.73
Maintenance (Employees).....	6,325.24
Miscellaneous.....	963.56

Total (Special Revenue).....	92,541.01
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GRAND TOTAL (Opportunity School).....	<u>93,428.51</u>
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SOUTH CAROLINA OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

Classification of Expenditures 1957-58

ADMINISTRATION

A. Personal Service:

A-1 Salaries:

Superintendent.....	7,201.22
Principal.....	800.84
Stenographer.....	2,911.48
Bookkeeper.....	3,269.24
Clerk.....	2,659.80
Publicity Man.....	1,199.90
Hostess.....	2,191.74
Extra Clerical Help.....	<u>324.11</u>

Total (Salaries)..... 20,558.33

A-2 Wages (Student Help)..... 619.62

A-3 Special Payments..... 355.00

Total (Personal Service)..... 21,532.95

B. Contractual Services:

B-2 Travel.....	212.76
B-4 Repairs.....	34.73
B-5 Printing and Advertising.....	<u>639.56</u>

Total (Contractual Services)..... 887.05

C. Supplies:

C-4 Office Supplies..... 943.10

D. Fixed Charges and Contributions:

D-2 Insurance..... 72.50

Total (Administration)..... 23,435.60

INSTRUCTION:

A. Personal Service:

A-1 Salaries.....	50,967.72
A-2 Wages.....	112.50
A-3 Special Payments.....	<u>10.00</u>

Total (Personal Service)..... 51,090.22

B. Contractual Services:

B-2 Travel.....	429.59
B-4 Repairs.....	53.20
B-7 Other Contractual Services.....	<u>11.92</u>

Total (Contractual Services)..... 494.71

C. Supplies:

C-7 Educational Supplies..... 3,831.98

D. Fixed Charges and Contributions:

D-1 Rents..... 480.60

INSTRUCTION: (Continued)

G. Equipment:

G-7 Educational Equipment.....	<u>185.40</u>
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Total (Instruction).....	56,082.91
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DIETARY DEPARTMENT:

A. Personal Service:

A-1 Salaries.....	2,587.75
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A-2 Wages.....	<u>7,604.96</u>
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Total (Personal Service).....	10,192.71
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B. Contractual Services:

B-4 Repairs.....	290.93
------------------	--------

B-7 Other Contractual Services.....	<u>365.13</u>
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Total (Contractual Services).....	656.06
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C. Supplies:

C-1 Food Supplies.....	30,035.23
------------------------	-----------

C-11 Other Supplies.....	<u>2,097.93</u>
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Total (Supplies).....	<u>32,133.16</u>
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Total (Dietary Department).....	42,981.93
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INFIRMARY:

A. Personal Service:

A-1 Salaries.....	1,933.75
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A-2 Wages.....	146.25
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A-3 Special Payments.....	<u>283.51</u>
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Total (Personal Service).....	2,363.51
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B. Contractual Services:

B-2 Travel.....	47.32
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B-7 Other Contractual Services.....	<u>192.90</u>
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Total (Contractual Services).....	240.22
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C. Supplies:

C-6 Medical Supplies.....	<u>257.32</u>
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Total (Infirmary).....	2,861.05
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GENERAL PLANT:

A. Personal Service:

A-1 Salaries:

Maintenance Man.....	3,960.06
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Housemother.....	1,971.85
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Marshal.....	<u>705.43</u>
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Total (Salaries).....	6,637.34
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A-2 Wages.....	<u>21,263.13</u>
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Total (Personal Service).....	27,900.47
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GENERAL PLANT: (Continued)

B. Contractual Services:

B-1 Freight, Express, and Deliveries.....	309.41
B-3 Telephone and Telegraph.....	861.30
B-4 Repairs.....	3,984.46
B-6 Water, Heat, Lights, and Power.....	13,920.60
B-7 Other Contractual Services.....	<u>344.06</u>

Total (Contractual Services)..... 19,419.83

C. Supplies:

C-2 Fuel Supplies.....	18,933.14
C-8 Motor Vehicle Supplies.....	809.83
C-11 Other Supplies.....	2,571.51
C-12 Repair Supplies.....	<u>6,244.29</u>

Total (Supplies)..... 28,558.77

D. Fixed Charges and Contributions:

D-2 Insurance.....	1,954.85
D-4 Other Fixed Charges.....	<u>16.00</u>

Total (Fixed Charges and Contributions)..... 1,970.85

G. Equipment:

G-3 Household Equipment.....	430.71
G-4 Motor Vehicles and Equipment.....	11.64
G-8 Other Equipment.....	<u>371.46</u>

Total (Equipment)..... 813.81

Total (General Plant)..... 78,663.73

FARM:

A. Personal Service:

A-1 Salaries.....	2,640.04
A-2 Wages.....	<u>4,395.31</u>

Total (Personal Service)..... 7,035.35

B. Contractual Services:

B-4 Repairs.....	718.06
B-6 Water, Heat, Lights, and Power.....	1,309.03
B-7 Other Contractual Services.....	<u>952.33</u>

Total (Contractual Services)..... 2,979.42

C. Supplies:

C-3 Feed and Veterinary Supplies.....	24,637.84
C-8 Motor Vehicle Supplies.....	728.02
C-9 Agricultural Supplies.....	418.96
C-11 Other Supplies.....	276.10
C-12 Repair Supplies.....	<u>595.55</u>

Total (Supplies)..... 26,656.47

FARM: (Continued)

D. Fixed Charges and Contributions:	
D-2 Insurance.....	78.05
D-4 Other Fixed Charges.....	<u>4.00</u>
Total (Fixed Charges and Contributions).....	82.05
G. Equipment:	
G-4 Motor Vehicles and Equipment.....	72.27
G-5 Agricultural Equipment.....	10.30
G-6 Livestock.....	<u>1,694.93</u>
Total (Equipment).....	1,777.50
Total (Farm).....	<u>38,530.79</u>
GRAND TOTAL (Opportunity School).....	<u><u>242,556.01</u></u>

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

State Appropriation.....	150,015.00
Institutional Revenue.....	<u>92,541.01</u>
	<u><u>242,556.01</u></u>

C O P I

October 29, 1958

Mr. Jesse Agnew, Director
S. C. Opportunity School
West Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Agnew:

We have been requested to pass upon the validity of a proposed conveyance of certain property utilized by the Opportunity School and the Area Trade School in Lexington County. The subject property is located upon what was formerly the Columbia Army Air Base. A portion of the minutes of the meeting of the Trustees of the Opportunity School on Wednesday, October 15, 1958, recites that the Board of Trustees adopted a motion to convey its interest in the chapel to the Area Trade School subject to the approval of the Attorney General.

A portion of the land occupied by the Columbia Army Air Base was heretofore conveyed by the United States of America to the State of South Carolina by deed executed on the 3rd day of September, 1947, the said deed being recorded in the office of the Clerk of Court for Lexington County in Deed Book 6-0 at Page 2. This conveyance contained certain restrictions, which were released by instruments dated June 20, 1953, and August 27, 1956, respectively. These instruments are recorded in the office of the Clerk of Court for Lexington County, but I do not have the index data thereto. The effect of these instruments is to convey in fee simple title of the lands unto the State of South Carolina.

Excluded from these conveyances, however, was a portion of land containing one acre, together with Building # 459, designated as a chapel building.

By deed dated the 17th day of July, 1947, the United States conveyed the acre of land and building referred to to the South Carolina State Department of Education. Conveyance was made pursuant to the provisions of Act # 348, Acts and Joint Resolutions, 1947. This deed is recorded in the office of the Clerk of Court for Lexington County in Deed Book 6-0 at Pages 1 and 2.

The building which the Opportunity School proposes to convey its interest in to the Area Trade School is included upon the premises of the deed last referred to.

These premises were conveyed subject to certain restrictions, the principal one of which was that the premises transferred, including Building # 459 (chapel building) should be used on-site continuously for the remainder of their natural life as a house of worship and chapel in connection with what is known as the South Carolina Opportunity School and the South Carolina Area Trade School under the supervision and direction of the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Board of Education.

A cessation of use of the premises for religious worship would have the effect of giving the Grantor, United States, the option of taking possession of the premises by way of reverter or to have paid to it the difference between the value of the premises without restrictions and the price actually paid.

There does not appear to be any release by the United States as to the restrictions on the use of the premises.

It appears, therefore, that title to these premises is vested in the South Carolina State Board of Education and that the use to which the building may be put is controlled by the terms of the deed pursuant to which it was acquired. The Opportunity School is, by an Act enacted in 1957, made a body politic. It has authority to "contract for, purchase, and hold property." Section 22-520.3, Code of Laws. The authority herein granted is sufficient to confer authority for the Opportunity School to acquire realty, but it is not sufficient, in the opinion of this office, to confer authority to convey realty. Williams v. Wylie, 217 S.C. 247, 60 S.E. (2d) 586. Moreover, the Opportunity School at the time of the acquisition of this property had no legal existence as a body politic but functioned as an efficient and valuable adjunct of the Department of Education.

The South Carolina Area Trade School is not a body politic and, as such, cannot hold title to real property. It is a function of the State, with the authority to manage and control the same being vested in the State Board of Education. Pursuant to statute, the State Board of Education may hold title to real and personal property in furtherance of area trade schools. 21-651, et seq., Code of Laws, 1952.

From the foregoing it is my opinion that title to the premises in question has never vested in the Opportunity School and that it has no authority to make conveyance thereof. Title to

October 29, 1958

the premises is vested in the State Board of Education, which may make such use of the property as it wishes consonant with the terms of the deed pursuant to which this realty was acquired.

I have not overlooked the fact that the consideration of two thousand dollars paid for these premises was, from information furnished me, provided in equal amounts by the Opportunity School and the Area Trade School. It is my understanding, moreover, that the half of the purchase price paid by the Opportunity School was derived from non-public sources. These facts do not alter the conclusions herein reached in that whatever equitable interest other persons may or may not have does not affect the ultimate title to the lands which rests in the State Board of Education.

Very truly yours,

Daniel R. McLeod
Assistant Attorney General

DRM:jf

CC: Mr. B. R. Turner, Director
S. C. Area Trade School
Capitol Airport
Columbia, South Carolina

Hon. Jesse T. Anderson
State Superintendent of Education
Wade Hampton Office Building
Columbia, South Carolina

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

Meeting of July 12, 1959

The summer business meeting of the Opportunity School Alumni Association was held in the school lounge Sunday morning July 12, 1959, with C. L. Magalis, president, presiding.

This meeting had been preceded by a banquet in the school dining room on Saturday night, at which Dr. J. Marvin Rast, Executive Secretary, Methodist Board of Education, South Carolina Conference, was the guest speaker.

In the Sunday morning meeting, Miss Marguerite Tolbert, assistant director of the school, conducted the devotional. Miss Ruby Kelly lead the group in singing "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" and "Into My Heart." Mr. Agnew offered the prayer. Miss Tolbert read some familiar passages from Phillipians, telling us that the most important word in the verse was "think." She based her talk on that. Miss Carolyn Cromer read William Cullen Bryant's "To a Waterfowl."

Minutes of the meeting of December 8, 1958, were read and approved.

Mr. Agnew reported that the securing of title to the land was in about the same status as previously reported.

He also made a report on the Diagnostic Center which has been established at the school in cooperation with Vocational Rehabilitation. He reported favorably on the service it is rendering, and the financial benefits to the school. He said that the rehabilitation students fitted in with our regular students, and there was not a dual system of operation of the two groups, but a coordinated system. He answered questions concerning its operation.

Mr. Magalis and Miss Tolbert reported on some of the accomplishments of the alumni during the past year. The purchase of the silver service is something we're proud of. It was purchased at the tremendously reduced price of \$297.~~30~~71. They mentioned also Miss Gray's portrait, which the alumni had a great part in having done, and the service the alumni have rendered through the years by their faithful and loyal support in promoting bills affecting the school in the legislature.

Suggestions were called for as to how the school could benefit the association. Miss Ardella Pitts suggested that we might send the "Carolina Pioneer," school newspaper, to the alumni once every three months or so, incorporating alumni news into it. Mrs. Erwin suggested that we have a publicity chairman to handle news. Other thoughts brought out were that we might get more students into the association by having an alumni luncheon immediately following commencement, inducting new graduates into the association; that the banquet might be held the week before the ending of school so that alumni and students would get to know each other, and that a committee should be appointed to study the matter and make some recommendations as to how this thing may best be done. This was put into a motion

by James Fox, seconded by Fritz Kuck, and passed by the group. Again active local associations were mentioned to be in the form of study clubs or alumni groups. Mr. Magalis asked for the assistance of anyone called upon in this matter.

He asked also for suggestions for new projects. Miss Brown suggested that the school should have a student from each county -- and that alumni should try to make the contacts. Miss Tolbert suggested that we work on an entrance gate at the road coming into the school. Dr. Poole had once offered the Clemson architectural talent to design it and said that the Trade School brick mason students would build it. Miss Gray had said the garden clubs would landscape it. Our job would be to buy the bricks and mortar. Miss Lessie Moore asked if the Clemson offer would still be good, and Miss Tolbert said she believed it would. James Fox made the motion that Miss Tolbert be asked to contact the proper people to get the machinery in motion and get figures on costs and other information to be put before the group at the fall meeting. Wreford Nabors seconded the motion and it was carried. Mr. Cecil Burden made some suggestions concerning the building of it.

Mr. Magalis asked and was granted permission to appoint a new constitution committee.

Mr. Magalis introduced Mrs. Ida May Buckwalter, who is writing a dissertation on the Opportunity School. She asked that we help her in her work and said that she in turn would help our organization by contacting a lot of alumni.

Miss Hazel Stringfield expressed the appreciation of the group for the hospitality of the school in having us as guests for the week end.

Mr. Agnew suggested that we send letters to Miss Gray and Mr. Watkins telling them how much we have missed them.

The meeting was adjourned, and the group was served a delicious dinner in the school dining room before the members left for their homes in various sections of the state.

Despite the heavy rains we were having from Hurricane Cindy, approximately forty alumni and visitors were present.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugenia Bechtler
Mrs. E. E. Bechtler
Secretary

QUESTIONNAIRE TO GRADUATES OF THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

Please read, check carefully and return at once to Miss Marguerite Tolbert,
Assistant Director, Opportunity School, West Columbia, South Carolina.

NAME (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____

IF A MARRIED WOMAN, PLEASE GIVE MAIDEN NAME _____

PLACE OF BIRTH _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ AGE _____
Month Day Year

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE: BUSINESS _____ HOME _____ CHURCH MEMBERSHIP _____
Denomination

PRESENT OCCUPATION: _____ NO. DEPENDENTS _____

MARITAL STATUS: Single Married Widow Widower Divorcee No. Children _____

PERSONAL DATA:

Do you own your own home? Yes No . Urban Rural Suburban . Check items
which you own: Car Radio T.V. Refrigerator Deep Freeze Washing Machine .
Are you saving regularly in the following? Please check: Building and Loan _____
U.S. Bonds Stocks Insurance Your own business Other _____

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT:

Grammar school grade completed. Circle one. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Year _____
High school grade completed. Circle one. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. Year _____
Years of college completed: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior. Year _____
Diploma? Yes No . Degree _____ Specify other business or trade schools
attended _____
Honors or special recognition in high school or college _____

_____. What college did you attend?
Years attended Opportunity School? _____. Did you receive a high school cer-
tificate at the Opportunity School? Yes No . Year _____
Did you receive an Opportunity School diploma? Yes No . Year _____

EVALUATION OF OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL EXPERIENCES:

1. Why did you attend the Opportunity School? _____

2. What course did you take at the Opportunity School that has meant most to you
and why? _____

3. Suggest courses that would have been helpful but which were not offered:

4. How did the Opportunity School benefit you most? (Check Six)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| A. Increased knowledge | H. Development of a desire to serve others |
| B. Inspiration to go forward | I. Helped me to get a better job |
| C. Development of self confidence | J. Helped me to finish high school |
| D. Social development | K. Helped me get in college |
| E. Greater joy of living | L. Stepping stone to further training as: |
| F. Development of great appreciation | 1. Nurse 3. Civil Servant |
| G. Development of curiosity | 2. Office Worker 4. _____ |

QUESTIONNAIRE (cont.)

5. List your hobbies. _____
6. Are you a member of a public library? Yes ___ No ___ 7. List newspapers and
magazines you subscribe to: _____

8. To what extent have you traveled? Circle. Canada, Mexico, Europe, U.S., Other
9. Are you an active member of the Opportunity School Alumni? Yes ___ No ___
Of your county Alumni Association? Yes ___ No ___
10. List civic and church organizations of which you are a member. _____

List offices held and services rendered church or community: _____

11. Did your experiences at the Opportunity School inspire you to send your children
through high school? Yes ___ No ___through college? Yes ___ No ___ . Give number of
your children who were graduated from high school _____who have gone on to
college _____number who were graduated from college _____.
12. Give weekly salary when you entered the Opportunity School: _____.
Give weekly salary now: _____.
13. List below lasting values gained from attending the Opportunity School.
14. List suggestions for improving the Opportunity School.
15. Other comments:

If possible give names of any alumni who have recently changed their addresses and
give new addresses.

THOMAS A. YAWKEY
420 LEXINGTON AVENUE
SUITE 2750
NEW YORK

April 3, 1961

Miss Lessie Moore
Field Representative
Opportunity School
West Columbia, S.C.

Dear Miss Moore:

Mr. Yawkey has forwarded to me for reply your letter of March 29th, addressed to him in South Carolina.

He maintains this office to handle all matters of a business nature; and consequently he does not make any business appointments while he is at South Island. In fact, he prefers to have all correspondence, unless of a purely personal nature, sent to this address. He suggests, therefore, that you write to me -- or to Mr. Yawkey at this address -- outlining what you had planned to take up with him. He expects to come north shortly, and I shall be glad to take the matter up with him at that time.

Sincerely yours,

Tanet Dickson
Secretary

JD

April 6, 1961

C
Mr. Thomas A. Yawkey
420 Lexington Avenue
Suite 2750
New York, New York

O
Dear Mr. Yawkey:

A letter from your secretary, Miss Janet Dickson, suggested that I write to you, outlining what I had planned to discuss with you.

P
On a recent trip to Georgetown I crossed the ferry to South Island, hoping to get one glimpse of the man about whom all people are talking -- nice things, of course. I hoped to tell you about our wonderful Opportunity School; but since I was not privileged to do this in person, I shall outline it briefly.

The enclosed folder gives a detailed description of probably the most unique school in the United States. It is located in the center of a very wonderful state, my native home and your adopted home,

Y
I am sure you have felt the need for such a school, which serves people who are seeking a "second chance" at an education. Certainly, Georgetown has sent a large number of students to this school, which has been in existence for forty years.

Due to the fact that many people in South Carolina are in a low-income bracket, due to the fact that their educational level is limited, they find it difficult to advance to a better job. It becomes a vicious circle. These people are grand citizens, but they need the boost which people of means are able to give them.

Through the years interested people, churches, religious and civic organization have contributed funds to help these deserving people attend Opportunity School. These deductible gifts have served a two-fold purpose -- to the giver and to the recipient.

Many people have received their high school diplomas and have been able to secure better positions because of this boost to their educational morale.

Five hundred dollars maintains a person in the Opportunity School ten months.

C If you, the idol of many people, would help this cause by sending a check to the Opportunity School, West Columbia, South Carolina, you could never help a better cause. A gift of five hundred, five thousand, fifty thousand dollars, or any amount you should choose to give would be the greatest thing that Mr. Thomas A. Yawkey could possibly do for his adopted state. An investment in humanity is the greatest of all investments.

Please think seriously about this important matter and give as generously as you can.

O Thanking you for any consideration which you might show and with all good wishes to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

P Lessie Moore
Field Representative

Y LM:cgh
Enclosure

OFFICES OF
THOMAS A. YAWKEY
420 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

April 19, 1961

Miss Lessie Moore
Field Representative
Opportunity School
West Columbia, S.C.

Dear Miss Moore:

I have your letter of April 6th, and was interested in receiving the information about "The Opportunity School of South Carolina". I certainly do not question the fact that it is the most unique school in the U.S.A.

In recent years I have found it necessary to restrict my donations to causes either in my own locale or in locales with which I am directly connected. I am sure you can readily understand my policy in this regard, as demands are numerous and extensive.

However, in this instance I have decided to make a five hundred dollar donation, and I sincerely trust it will be helpful. There are many wonderful and worthy causes, and I wish I could contribute to all -- but this is an impossibility.

I appreciate your letter and your comments about me. The manner in which you presented your case perhaps influenced me more than any other one thing in making this donation. You should have little difficulty in securing many donations with a similar approach.

I should like to return your good wishes -- good luck and good health to you.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas A. Yawkey
per S.D.

TAY:JD
(Dictated but not read)

April 21, 1961

Mr. Thomas A. Yawkey
420 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Yawkey:

Your nice letter and generous contribution to the Opportunity School thrilled us. We can never forget you and your generosity to our school.

This gift will enable ten people from Georgetown county to attend the summer session, June 12 to July 8. You will be hearing from these students when they say "thank-you" for your help. We plan to select students who will reflect credit to their county and to their state.

We sincerely hope you can be privileged to visit us sometime and get first-hand information about our program.

With all good wishes to you, I am

Gratefully yours,

Lessie Moore
Field Representative

LM:ogh

May 19, 1961

C
O
P
Y

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

On the evening of November 3 Governor Hollings of South Carolina invited Dr. Wil Lou Gray, a famous educator, to speak on a statewide TV program in your behalf. This little chubby lady, founder of the famous Opportunity School for adults and out-of-school youth stirred the people of this state "to think before you vote" and gave her reasons why she would support the Democratic party. The effect was electric. It is the consensus that "Miss Wil Lou" pushed South Carolina over the top for the Democrats. Please ask Governor Hollings about this living dynamo!

Dr. Gray founded a school in 1921 known as The Opportunity School for worthy adults. This school is now famous around the world as the first of its kind in this country. Its basic purpose is to give a second chance to those individuals who have fallen between the cracks educationally.

Through the years hundreds of citizens have achieved as doctors, nurses, teachers, ministers, etc. because people in higher income brackets have cared enough to help them to attend the Opportunity School.

It costs only fifty dollars per month to maintain a person in this school which is in session ten months each year.

Mr. President

-2-

May 19, 1961

I am daring to ask the President of the United States and his lovely wife for a monetary gift for our Scholarship Fund.

Your gift would mean much to the needy students of our school and to our wonderful South Carolina. The enclosed brochure describes our set-up perfectly.

You are a grand President! Even the Republicans are admitting this fact. We Democrats knew it before you became President. Don't let Castro get you down!

More power to you in your dynamic leadership of the free world. With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

Lessie Moore
Field Representative

LM:cgh
Enclosure

C
O
P
Y

0' 100 200 300 400 500 600 700



LEGEND

A	ADMINISTRATION	C-10	INFIRMARY
B-1	RESIDENCE	C-11	RECREATION HALL
B-2	DIAGNOSTIC CENTER	C-12	TWO RESIDENCES
	WATER POLLUTION CENTER	D-1	WAREHOUSE
B-3	STAFF APARTMENTS	D-2	WAREHOUSE
B-4	GIRLS' DORMITORY	D-3	WAREHOUSE
B-5	CLASSROOMS	D-4	WAREHOUSE
B-6	CLASSROOMS	E	BOILER ROOM
B-7	CLASSROOMS	F	CANTEEN
B-8	LIBRARY	G	TV ROOM
B-9	GIRLS' DORMITORY	H	RESIDENCE
B-10	GIRLS' DORMITORY	I	CERAMICS AND ART
B-11	BOYS' DORMITORY	J-1	WEST DORMITORY (A)
B-12	BOYS' DORMITORY & RESIDENCE	J-2	BUILDING CONDEMNED
C-3	RESIDENCE	K	PICNIC AREA
C-4	WAREHOUSE	M	CHAPEL & RED CROSS BUILDING
C-5	WAREHOUSE	N-1-2	MEN'S DORMITORIES
C-6	WAREHOUSE	O	RESIDENCE
C-7	DINING-ROOM & KITCHEN	P	TENNIS COURTS
C-8	SHOP	Q	SCIENCE BUILDING
		R	MISCELLANEOUS STORAGE

BALL
FIELD

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL
LEXINGTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

EXISTING FACILITIES
PLOT PLAN

1964

EXHIBIT A-1



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DIVISION OF GENERAL SERVICES
BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD
300 GERVAIS STREET
COLUMBIA

FURMAN E. McEACHERN, JR.
DIRECTOR

May 16, 1967

Mr. Micajah P. Caskey
Acting Superintendent
South Carolina Opportunity School
West Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Caskey:

At its meeting on September 22, 1966, the State Budget and Control Board authorized an exchange of property with the Columbia-Lexington Airport Commission. Deeds to the property were exchanged today, culminating negotiations which have extended over a period of several years.

The Budget and Control Board, in authorizing the exchange of property, adopted a resolution defining the campus of the Opportunity School. A copy of this resolution is attached for your records.

Very truly yours,

F. E. McEachern, Jr.
Director

FEM: bt

Enclosure

*Original
Copies for file
Edit*

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State of South Carolina acquired lands known as the Columbia Army Air Base for educational and other purposes, and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Area Trade Schools and the South Carolina Opportunity School have demonstrated their needs for defined campus areas, and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has by separate Acts authorized the Budget and Control Board to sell and exchange land at this site under certain conditions, and

WHEREAS, there is need for orderly use and disposal of these lands in the best interests of the State, now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: (1) The Budget and Control Board does hereby agree to deed to the Columbia-Lexington Airport Commission approximately five (5) acres of State-owned land on Platt Springs Road, being adjacent to land previously transferred by the Board to said Commission, and to deed approximately ten (10) acres of land now occupied by the Area Trade School, said land being bounded by California Avenue, Alabama Street and a one hundred foot (100') strip along the northwestern boundary of the Area Trade School,

SAID DEED being granted in exchange for approximately ten and three-tenths acres (10.3) bounded on the South by Boston Avenue and bounded on the West, North and East by the Opportunity School.

(2) The campus of the Opportunity School shall consist of approximately one hundred seven (107) acres bounded by Florida Street and Boston Avenue and following property line on the North and East of the lands acquired as a portion of Columbia Army Air Base.

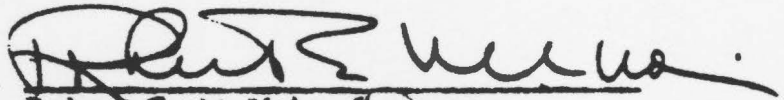
(3) The campus of the Area Trade School shall consist of two tracts totalling approximately one hundred twenty-five (125) acres of which the larger tract is bounded on the West by property of the Airport Commission, on the South by California Avenue, Alabama Street and Kentucky Loop, on the East by Lexington Avenue, Columbia Circle and Vermont Avenue, and on the North by lands of the Argus plant of Sylvania Electric Products, Incorporated. The smaller tract, containing forty-nine and two-hundredths (49.02) acres is bounded on the South by lands leased to the Palmetto Outdoor Historical Drama Association, on the North and West by other lands of the State of South Carolina and on the East by land belonging to others; said tract being shown as lot 1 on plat dated July 1, 1965.

(4) That a sixty foot (60') roadway is dedicated along the western boundary of property leased to the Palmetto Outdoor Historical Drama Association northerly to a point approximately one thousand seven hundred feet (1,700') from Platt Springs Road, and thence in a general westerly direction to intersect with the Old Barnwell Road dividing the remainder parcel.

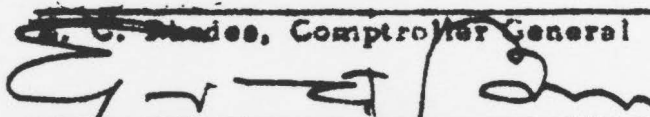
(5) That the area shown as lot E on the July 1, 1965 plat is assigned for use of the Division of General Services for the Surplus Property donation program, so that lots E and F provide a total of approximately eleven and five-tenths (11.5) acres for this purpose.

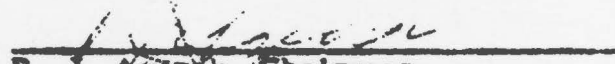
(6) That plats of the property be prepared showing land use as prescribed in this Resolution, with remainder parcels also indicated thereon.

Adopted this _____ day of July, 1966.


Robert E. McNair, Governor


J. M. Smith, State Treasurer


Edgar A. Brown, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee


R. J. Aycock, Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee

P. C. Smith, Secretary

(RS31, H1678)

No. 376

An Act To Amend Section 22-523, Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, 1962, Relating To The Board Of Trustees Of The South Carolina Opportunity School, So As To Increase The Number Of Members.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Trustees.—Section 22-523 of the 1962 Code is amended by striking on line three "eleven" and inserting "fourteen", by striking on line three "seven" and inserting "ten", by striking on line six "tenth" and inserting "thirteenth", and by striking on line eight "eleventh" and inserting "fourteenth". The section when amended shall read:

"Section 22-523. The Opportunity School shall be under the management and control of a board of fourteen trustees, ten of whom shall be elected by the legislature, and two of whom shall be elected by the alumni association of the school. The trustees so elected shall be citizens of the State who are interested in the aims and ambitions of the school. The thirteenth member shall be the State Superintendent of Education, who shall serve ex officio. The fourteenth member shall be the Governor who shall be a member of the board, ex officio, and shall be chairman. Members of the board who are elected by the legislature shall serve for terms of four years and until their successors shall be appointed and shall qualify, except that two of those first elected shall serve for two years, two for three years, and three for four years. The two elected by the alumni association shall serve for four years."

SECTION 2. Terms of additional members.—Of the three additional members added to the board of trustees of the South Carolina Opportunity School by the provisions of this act, one shall serve an initial term of four years and until his successor is appointed and qualifies, one shall serve for an initial term of three years and until his successor is appointed and qualifies, and one shall serve for an initial term of two years and until his successor is appointed and qualifies. Successors shall serve four-year terms as provided in Section 22-523.

SECTION 3. Time effective.—This act shall take effect upon approval by the Governor.

Approved the 2nd day of July, 1969.

At a General Assembly Begun to
be Holden at Columbia, on the
Second Tuesday in January, in the
Year of Our Lord One Thousand
Nine Hundred and Seventy-Two, and
Thence Continued by Divers Ad-
journments to the _____
day of _____

In the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Two

AN ACT

To Amend Section 22-522, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1962,
Relating to Courses to be Provided for Certain Persons by the
South Carolina Opportunity School, so as to Further Provide
Therefor.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 22-522 of the 1962 Code is amended by de-
leting "physically" on line eight. The section when amended shall
read as follows:

"Section 22-522. The school shall provide year-round training
for adults interested in continuing their elementary or high school
education, or in taking refresher courses preparatory to college, with
emphasis on personal development, vocational efficiency and effective
citizenship. It shall provide night classes for nonresident students
who are able to devote only part time to study, and shall cooperate
with the rehabilitation department in providing basic general edu-
cation and prevocational courses for the handicapped. In addition it
shall serve as an adult education center cooperating with agencies
and organizations interested in continuing education and in-service
training."

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon approval by the
Governor.

—XX—

MAY 11 1972

In the Senate House the _____ day of _____
in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and
Seventy-two _____

Cal E. Marz
President of the Senate

Robert B. Bate
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Approved the 11th day of May, 1972

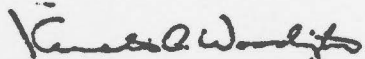
W. H. Holt
Governor

8-24-76
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

I, Kenneth P. Woodington, Attorney for the South Carolina Opportunity School, an educational institution of the State of South Carolina, do certify that the State of South Carolina, Budget and Control Board, is the owner in fee simple of that certain real property hereinafter described:

All that certain piece, parcel, or tract of land situate, lying and being in Lexington County, State of South Carolina, formerly known as a portion of the former Columbia Army Air Base property and originally containing 998.03 acres, more or less, as shown on a map entitled "Columbia, South Carolina, Columbia Army Air Base, General Layout, Base Engineer Office," dated January 20, 1944, Drawing ND-2186-106, a copy of which is attached to a deed recorded in Deed Book 6-0 at page 2, Office of the Clerk of Court of Common Pleas for Lexington County, South Carolina, saving and excepting therefrom certain lots, parcels, rights and interests in said land theretofore alienated, conveyed and otherwise disposed of by the State of South Carolina and predecessors in title, more particularly mentioned, described, and set forth in prior conveyances, etc. of record.

There are no encumbrances, liens, or assessments or other limitations affecting the use of described property for the purposes intended.


Kenneth P. Woodington
Assistant Attorney General

March 24, 1976.

(R598, H3739)

An Act To Amend Section 22-521, Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, 1962, Relating To The South Carolina Opportunity School, So As To Change The Name Of The School To The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina :

SECTION 1. The General Assembly finds that it is appropriate to change the name of the South Carolina Opportunity School to the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School in honor of the founder, Dr. Wil Lou Gray, who served as director for thirty-six years.

SECTION 2. Section 22-521 of the 1962 Code is amended to read :

"Section 22-521. The Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School is hereby authorized, and shall be located in Lexington County on the property formerly occupied by the Army Air Force and known as the Columbia Air Base, which property the State received by quitclaim deed in September 1947 for the joint use of the Opportunity School and the South Carolina Trade School."

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon approval by the Governor.

In the Senate House the 7th day of April

In the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-six.

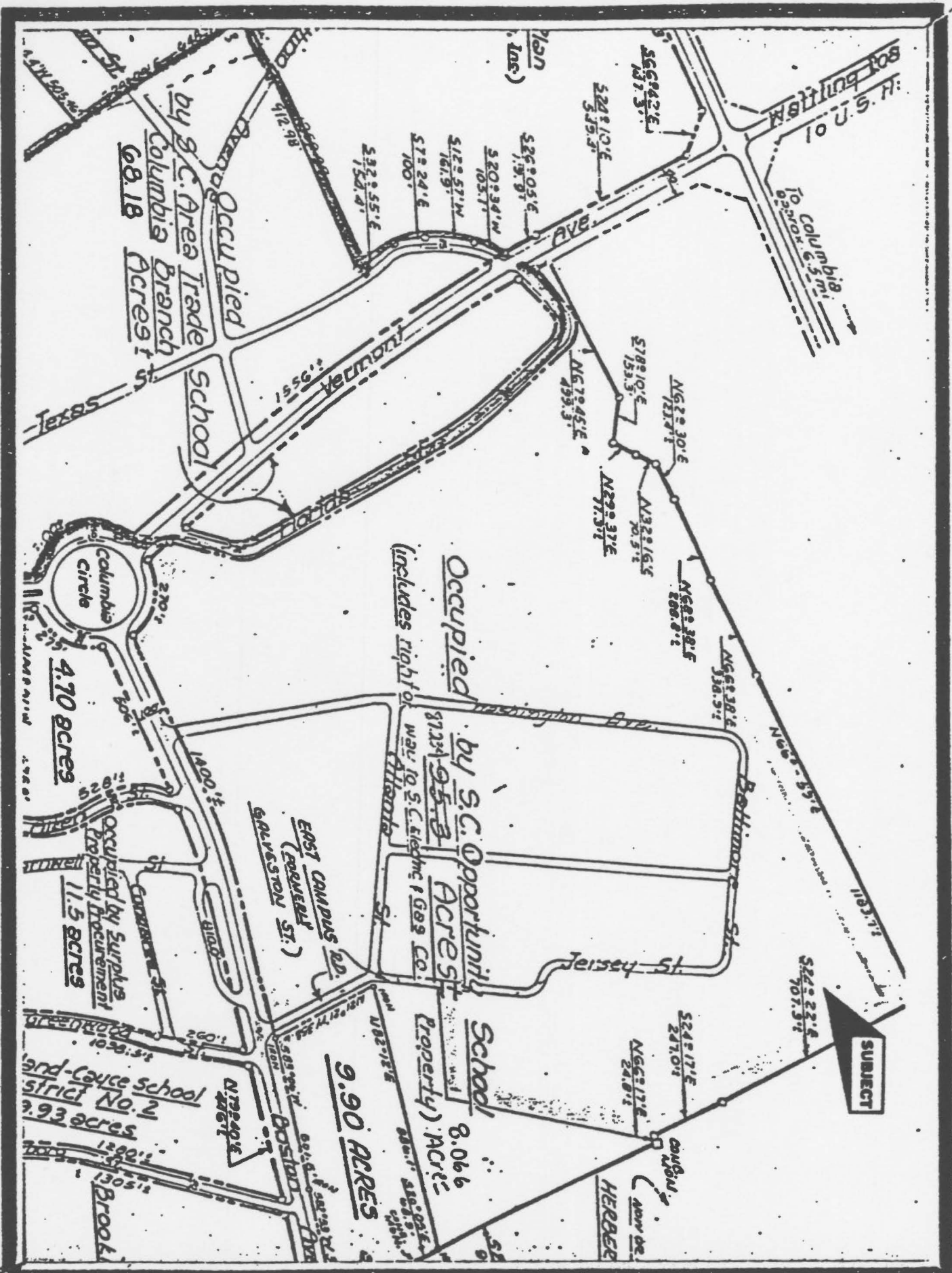
L. MARION GRESSETTE,

President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

REX L. CARTER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Became law without the signature of the Governor.



House: Simpson, McLellan, B. L. Hendricks, Jr.,
Martin
Attorney: Draffin
Stenographer: Yonce
Date: March 22, 1984
No.: 7200A

H. 3709

A JOINT RESOLUTION

TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE STATE HOUSE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE A PORTRAIT PAINTED OF ONE OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S MOST DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS, THE LATE DR. WIL LOU GRAY, AND PLACE IT IN A SUITABLE PLACE OF HONOR IN THE STATE HOUSE.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. The State Budget and Control Board in conjunction with the State House Committee established pursuant to Section 10-1-40 of the 1976 Code shall have a portrait painted of one of South Carolina's most distinguished citizens, the late Dr. Wil Lou Gray, and place it in a suitable place of honor in the State House.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon approval by the Governor.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 1989

**SECTION 5--RECONSIDERED, AMENDED AND
ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

The motion of Rep. WRIGHT to reconsider the vote whereby Section 5 was adopted and amended was taken up and agreed to.

Rep. WRIGHT proposed the following Amendment No. 20 (Doc. No. 5044U), which was adopted.

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking Section 59-65-470 of the 1976 Code, as contained on page [0321-11], and inserting:

/Section 59-65-470. To enable the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School to inform dropouts of the school's academic and vocational training programs, the school is authorized to contact the attendance supervisors or principals at the various high schools or school districts of this State at reasonable intervals for the purpose of receiving access to the names and addresses of students reported by the supervisors and principals to be dropouts, and the attendance supervisors and principals must supply this information to the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. For purposes of this section, a 'dropout' is a pupil who leaves school for any reason, except death, before graduation or completion of a course of studies and without transferring to another school./

Re-number sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

SECTION 20--MOTION TO RECONSIDER WITHDRAWN

The motion of Rep. CORBETT to reconsider the vote whereby Section 20 was adopted was taken up.

Rep. CORBETT, with unanimous consent, withdrew the motion to reconsider.

SECTION 21--MOTION TO RECONSIDER WITHDRAWN

The motion of Rep. CORBETT to reconsider the vote whereby Section 21 was adopted was taken up.

Rep. CORBETT, with unanimous consent, withdrew the motion to reconsider.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
1600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-1600
September 24, 1996

1996 SEP 25 PM 10:42

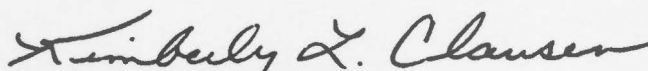
Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Thurmond:

This acknowledges receipt of your August 26, 1996, letter to the Department of Defense on behalf of Ms. Pat G. Smith, concerning her desire to locate any records pertaining to a land transfer that took place in 1947.

Inquiry into this matter has been initiated. You will be further advised as soon as information becomes available. If you have any questions about this inquiry, please refer to the following case number: 60905085.

Sincerely,


Kimberly L. Clausen
Congressional Actions Coordinator
Congressional Inquiry Division

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES, CHAIRMAN
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4001

August 26, 1996

Ms. Pat G. Smith
Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School
West Campus Road
West Columbia, South Carolina 29170

Dear Ms. Smith:

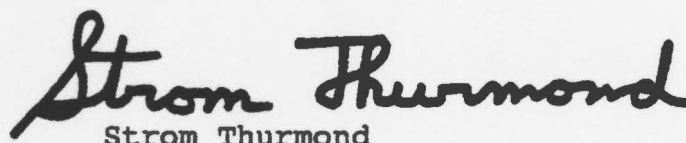
Thank you for your correspondence of recent date regarding the War Assets Administration.

Please be assured of my interest in assisting. In an effort to be of service, I have contacted the appropriate authorities at the Department of Defense on your behalf. I will get back in touch just as soon as I have a response to my inquiry.

In the meantime, if I can be of assistance in any other way, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,


Strom Thurmond

ST/r



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
1600 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-1600

November 7, 1996

96 NOV 13 PM 9:18

Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510-4001

Dear Senator Thurmond:

Thank you for your letter to the Department of Defense on behalf of Ms. Pat Smith, concerning the original acquisition cost or land value of approximately 998.03 acres which were transferred from the War Assets Administration to the Opportunity School in 1947.

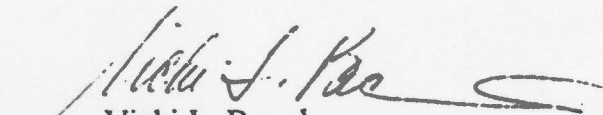
The following information was obtained from the Real Estate files of the Savannah District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Enclosed is one copy of the Real Estate Directives as follows: RE-D 2233 dated March 23, 1943; RE-D 1490-A dated August 5, 1943; RE-D 14490-B (Gen'l) dated December 9, 1943; RE-D 4059 dated August 2, 1944; and RE-D 4341 dated March 31, 1945. Also enclosed is ENG FORM 1603 (Realty Control File Summary) which summarizes land ownership and cost. Total acreage acquired by the State of South Carolina is 1,844.36. The original cost was \$147,794.51.

In January 1946, the subject Columbia Army Airbase, South Carolina, was reported excess by the War Department and accountability was assumed by the War Assets Administration on March 29, 1947, with the exception of one 0.70 acre parcel which was transferred to the Public Housing Administration on August 12, 1947. By Quitclaim Deed dated April 7, 1947, all but 999.03 acres were conveyed to Lexington County. By Quitclaim Deed dated July 17, 1947, one acre and Chapel Building #459 were conveyed to the South Carolina Department of Education for use for educational purposes in connection with the South Carolina Opportunity School and Trade School program. By Quitclaim Deed dated September 3, 1947, 998.03 acres were conveyed to the State of South Carolina subject to four conditions relating to use of the property. By Deed of

Release dated August 27, 1956, the U. S. Government, acting by and through the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, released the State of South Carolina from these four conditions.

I trust this information will be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Vicki L. Beard
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army
Chief, Special Actions Branch
Congressional Inquiry Division

Enclosure

August 21, 1942.

SUBJECT: Land Acquisition - Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina.

TO. : The Commanding General, Services of Supply.

1.- There is a military necessity for the acquisition of land indicated under subject above, and described more in detail in paragraph 2 below.

2.- Description of land, and other pertinent data, are as follows:

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND: Certain parcels of land situated in the County of Lexington, South Carolina, Southwest of the City of Columbia, more particularly shown on the attached map.

b. PROPOSED USE: Ordnance Area, Hospital Area, Housing Area, Sewage Disposal Plant, Parking and Hardstandings.

c. ACREAGE INVOLVED: Approximately 1,534.2 acres.

d. ESTIMATED COST: Approximately \$106,891.

e.. METHOD OF ACQUISITION: Fee simple title by condemnation or purchase.

3. The determination of military necessity is based upon the approval of the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, as indicated in the inclosed 4th Indorsement, dated August 3, 1942, and also upon 4th Indorsement dated August 12, 1942, and upon the construction directive prepared in this office. The subject site has been cleared by the Interdepartmental Air Traffic Control Board.

4. Funds for this acquisition are available from Public 649, 77th Congress, approval July 2, 1942. Project 260.6.

54. It is recommended that the Under Secretary of War be informed that a military necessity exists for the above-mentioned acquisition, and that he be requested to authorize this office to acquire the necessary land for this project.

For the Chief of Engineers:

2 1/2 in.

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

Ernest Hemingway

THOMAS N. ROBINS.

SUBJECT: Land Acquisition - Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina.

1st Ind.

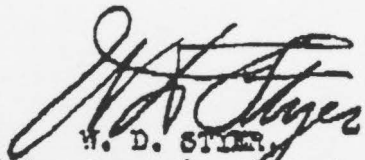
War Department, Headquarters, Army Service Forces, March 23, 1943.

TO: The Under Secretary of War.

1. The Secretary of War directs that you be informed that a military necessity exists for the acquisition of land referred to in the basic communication.

For the Commanding General:

2 Incls. n/c


W. D. STIER,
Major General, U. S. C.,
Chief of Staff.

2nd Ind.

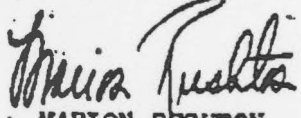
Office of the Under Secretary of War, March 23, 1943

TO: Chief of Engineers:

For acquisition of land in accordance with Section VII, Circular No. 47, W. D. 1942.

By direction of the Under Secretary of War:

2 Incls. n/c


MARION RUSHTON,
Colonel, J.A.G.D.,
Administrative Officer.

MAR 23 1943



WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE
UNDER SECRETARY

SUBJECT: Amendment of Land Acquisition, COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE, S. C.

4th Ind.

War Department, Headquarters, Army Service Forces,

5 August 1943

TO: The Under Secretary of War.

1. The Secretary of War directs that you be informed that a necessity exists for the acquisition of land described in the preceding 3rd indorsement by lease rather than in fee.

For the Commanding General:

F. M. Smith
Col. G. S. C.
For W. D. STYER,
Major General, G. S. C.,
Chief of Staff.

1 Incl. n/c.

AUG 6 43



RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

5th Ind.

Office of the Under Secretary of War,

5 August 1943

TO: The Chief of Engineers.

The original directive for land acquisition is hereby amended and the 8.6 acres of land set forth in the preceding 3rd indorsement will be acquired by lease.

By direction of the Under Secretary of War:

1 Incl. n/c.

Marion Rushion
MARION RUSHION
Colonel, J.A.G.D.
Administrative Officer

Real Estate Directive
Consecutive No. RE-D 1490 B

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS

File No. CE 601.1(Columbia Army Airbase, S.C.)SPELR Date 9 December 1943
Subject Acquisition of Land for Spoil and Borrow Area - Tract B-2...
From CHIEF REAL ESTATE DIVISION To CHIEF ACQUISITION
BRANCH - PURCHASE
SECTION.

1. Directive dated 21 August 1942, authorized the acquisition in fee of approximately 1,534.2 acres of land, at an estimated cost of \$106,891, to provide a site for Ordnance Area, Hospital Area, Housing Area, Sewage Disposal Plant, Parking and Hardstandings.

2. Directive dated 25 November 1942, authorized the acquisition in fee of right-of-way 50 feet in width and 25 feet on either side of a centerline 2.3 miles in length, at an estimated cost of \$19,500.00, to provide electric power to Columbia Army Air Base.

2233
3. Directive dated 23 March 1943, authorized the acquisition in fee of approximately 442.56 acres of land, at an estimated cost of \$30,000, to provide an Army Air Base at Columbia, South Carolina. The subject land was then under lease to the United States at an annual rental of \$3,263.00.

4. By 5th Indorsement dated 5 August 1943, the Under Secretary of War authorized the amendment of directive dated 21 August 1942, to acquire 8.6 acres of the land described therein by lease rather than in fee.

5. Based on the recommendation of the Division Engineer, South Atlantic Division by 8th Indorsement dated 25 November 1943; the concurrence of the Military Construction Branch by 1st Indorsement Memo dated 6 December 1943, at the approval of the Commanding General, Headquarters Third Air Force by 7th Indorsement dated 17 October 1943, a military necessity exists for the acquisition of additional land described as follows:

a. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND: Certain tracts of land situate in Congaree Township, Lexington County, 6 miles Southwest of Columbia, S. C. identified as Tracts 109 and 121, more particularly shown outlined in red on the attached Directive Map entitled "Columbia Army Air Base, approved 16 November 1943."

b. PROPOSED USE: Spoil and borrow area.

c. IMPROVEMENTS: None.

d. AREA INVOLVED: 33.81 acres.

e. ESTIMATED COST: \$350.00.

f. ESTATE TO BE ACQUIRED: Fee simple title.

g. METHOD OF ACQUISITION: Negotiation or condemnation.

6. Sufficient funds are available for this acquisition from funds previously authorized in directive referred to in Paragraph 3 above.

RE-D 1490 B

7. Pursuant to general directive dated 10 April 1942, issued by the Under Secretary of War, you are authorized to take the necessary action to acquire the land described above.

/s/ O'Brien
O'BRIEN

Attached:

Memo 12/3/43 w/1st Ind.

Ltr. 6/29/43 w/8 Inds. & Incls.

4th Ind.

War Department, Headquarters, Army Service Forces, Washington, D. C. 31 July 1944

To: The Under Secretary of War (THRU: The Assistant Secretary of War for Air)

The Secretary of War directs that you be informed that a military necessity no longer exists for the acquisition of land as outlined in 3rd Indorsement.

For the Commanding General:

/s/F. M. Smith
Colonel, General Staff Corps
Asst. to the Chief of Staff, A. S. F.

For LeRoy Lutes
Major General, G. S. C.
Acting Chief of Staff.

5th Ind.

Office of the Under Secretary of War, 2 August 1944.

To: The Chief of Engineers

Approved for the deletion of land as outlined in 3rd Indorsement in accordance with AR 100-81.

By direction of the Under Secretary of War:

/s/Marion Rushton
Colonel, J.A.G.D.
Administrative Officer

CE 601.1 (Columbia Army Air Base, S. C.) SPCL 25 March 1945

SUBJECT: Acquisition of a Leasehold Interest in Lieu of Fro.

1st Ind.

War Dept, ASF, Wash. D. C.

To: The Under Sec of War (THRU: The Assistant Sec. of War for Air)

The Secretary of War directs that you be informed that it is to the best interest of the Government to re-vest title and acquire a leasehold interest in the land as outlined in basic letter.

For The Commanding General:

W. D. STYER
Lt. General, U. S. A.
Chief of Staff

2 Incls:
n/c

/s/ F. H. Long
F. H. LONG
Lt. Col., GSC
Asst. to C/S ASF

2nd Ind.

Office of The Under Secretary of War

31 March 1945

TO: The Chief of Engineers

Approved for the re-vesting of title and acquisition of land as outlined in basic letter in accordance with AR 100-61.

By direction of The Under Secretary of War:

2 Incls:
n/c

/s/ Herbert A. Friedlich
HERBERT A. FRIEDLICH
Colonel, J.A.G.D.
Assistant

ARMY SERVICE FORCES
Office of the Chief of Engineers RE-D 4341
Washington

CE 601.1 (Columbia Army Air Base, S. C.) SPTLF 25 March 1945

SUBJECT: Acquisition of a Leasehold Interest in Lieu of Fee.

TO : The Commanding General, Army Service Forces.

1. Pursuant to AR 30-1410 a leasehold of interest has been obtained in Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina, containing 125 acres for a nominal consideration.

2. Directive No. RE-D 1490 dated 21 August 1942 authorized the acquisition in fee of approximately 1,534.2 acres of land at an estimated cost of \$1,06,891 to provide an ordnance area, hospital area, housing area, sewage disposal plant, parking and hard standings at Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina.

3. Based upon the recommendation of the Division Engineer, South Atlantic Division by 3rd Indorsement dated 12 February 1945, it has been determined to be to the best interest of the Government to amend Directive No. RE-D 1490 dated 21 August 1942 mentioned in paragraph 2 preceding to provide for the acquisition of a leasehold interest in lieu of fee in a portion of the land set forth below:

a. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF LAND: Certain tract of land located in Lexington County, South Carolina, identified as Tract No. B-12 outlined in red on the inclosed map dated 5 February 1943, marked Directive Map - Original and entitled "Columbia Army Air Base".

b. PROPOSED USE: Portion of Airport.

c. APPROXIMATE ACREAGE: 12 (1 tract).

d. IMPROVEMENTS: Highway No. 215.

e. ESTIMATED ANNUAL RENTAL: \$1.00.

f. ESTATE TO BE ACQUIRED: Leasehold interest.

g. METHOD OF ACQUISITION: Negotiation or condemnation.

h. REMARKS: The requisition of a leasehold interest will be accomplished provided a satisfactory stipulation is obtained to effect the change in estate taken.

4. Funds for the requisition are available under Public Law 374, 78th Congress, approved 28 June 1944.

5. It is recommended that the Under Secretary of War be informed that it is to the best interest of the Government to revert title and acquire the land as outlined above and that he be requested to authorize this office to take appropriate action in accordance therewith.

/s/ E. Reybold
E. REYBOLD
Major General
Chief of Engineers

2 Incls:

#1 Ltr dtd 28 Dec 44 from SAD

#3 Incls & 1 Incl.

#2 Directive Map - Original

419

RE-D 4059 -

CE 501.1(Columbia Army Airbase, South Carolina)SPELR

Subject: Deletion of Land

31 July 1944

3rd Ind.

War Department, Office, Chief of Engineers, Washington 25, D. C.

To: The Commanding General, Army Service Forces.

1. Preceding 2nd Indorsement dated 21 August 1942, Directive No. RE-D 1490 authorized the acquisition in fee of approximately 1534.2 acres of land at an estimated cost of \$106,891 to provide a site for an ordnance area, hospital area, housing area, sewage disposal plant, parking and hardstandings at Columbia Army Airbase, South Carolina.

2. Based upon the request of the Commanding General, Third Air Forces, by 2nd Indorsement dated 5 June 1944 and the recommendation of the Division Engineer, South Atlantic Division, by 3rd Indorsement dated 9 June 1944, a military necessity no longer exists for the acquisition of certain land and it is necessary to amend Directive No. RE-D 1490 dated 21 August 1942 mentioned in paragraph one (1) preceding to provide for the elimination of land and revesting of title therein as set forth below:

a. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF LAND: A certain parcel of land situate in Lexington County, South Carolina, being a portion of Tract A-16 as shown in red on the inclosed map dated 16 November 1943 marked Directive Map - Original and entitled "Columbia Army Airbase," Drawing No. 937-4.

b. ACREAGE INVOLVED: Approximately 25.7 acres.

c. REMARKS: The former owner has agreed to accept the revesting of title and waive all claims for damages to the property occasioned by the Government use and occupancy.

3. It is recommended that the Under Secretary of War be informed that a military necessity no longer exists for the acquisition of land as above outlined and that he be requested to authorize the elimination and revesting of title in the land.

/s/E. Reybold
Major General
Chief of Engineers

8-11



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 888
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31402-0888

CESAS-RE-PR

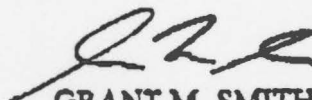
9 October 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, South Atlantic Division,
ATTN: CESAD-RE-M/Thompson

SUBJECT: Land Transfer conducted in 1947 - War Assets Administration

1. I am writing in response to a facsimile message from you dated 3 October 1996. I am responding to letter dated 9 August 1996, from Ms. Pat G. Smith. Ms. Smith has requested assistance in obtaining the original acquisition cost or land value of approximately 998.03 acres that was transferred from the War Assets Administration to the Opportunity School during Senator Thurmond's term as governor in 1947.
2. Members of my staff have searched the real estate files and located the requested information. Enclosed is one copy each of the Real Estate Directives as follows: RE-D 1490 dated 8-21-1942, RE-D 2233 dated 3-23-1943, RE-D 1490-A dated 8-5-1943, RE-D 1490-B (Gen'l) dated 12-9-1943, RE-D 4059 dated 8-2-1944, and RE-D 4341 dated 3-31-1945.
3. Also enclosed is ENG FORM 1603 (Realty Control File Summary) which summarizes land ownership and cost. Total acres acquired by the State of South Carolina are 1,844.36 acres and original cost of \$147,794.51. If I can be of further assistance on this matter, please contact me.

6 Encls


GRANT M. SMITH
COL, EN
Commanding



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 888
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31403-0888

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF.

CESAS-RE-PR

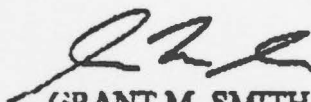
9 October 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, South Atlantic Division,
ATTN: CESAD-RE-M/Thompson

SUBJECT: Land Transfer conducted in 1947 - War Assets Administration

1. I am writing in response to a facsimile message from you dated 3 October 1996. I am responding to letter dated 9 August 1996, from Ms. Pat G. Smith. Ms. Smith has requested assistance in obtaining the original acquisition cost or land value of approximately 998.03 acres that was transferred from the War Assets Administration to the Opportunity School during Senator Thurmond's term as governor in 1947.
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6 Encls


GRANT M. SMITH
COL, EN
Commanding

In January 1946, the Base was reported excess by the War Department and accountability was assumed by the War Assets Administration (WAA) on 29 March 1947, with the exception of one 0.70 acre parcel which was transferred to the Public Housing Administration on 12 August 1947. By Quitclaim Deed dated 7 April 1947, all but 999.03 acres was conveyed to Lexington County. By Quitclaim Deed dated 17 July 1947, 1 acre and Chapel Building #459 were conveyed to the South Carolina Department of Education for use for educational purposes in connection with the South Carolina Opportunity School and Trade School programs. By Quitclaim Deed dated 3 September 1947, 998.03 acres was conveyed to the State of South Carolina subject to four conditions relating to use of the property. By Deed of Release dated 27 August 1956, the U. S. Government, acting by and through the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, released the State of South Carolina from these four conditions.

OE COL.1 (Columbia Army Airbase, South Carolina)SPHLR

SUBJECT: Deletion of Land.

81 JUL 1944

3rd Ind.

War Department, Office, Chief of Engineers, Washington 25, D. C.

TO: The Commanding General, Army Service Forces.

1. Preceding 2nd Indorsement dated 21 August 1942, Directive No. RE-D 1490, authorized the acquisition in fee of approximately 1534.2 acres of land at an estimated cost of \$106,891 to provide a site for an ordnance area, hospital area, housing area, sewage disposal plant, parking and hardstandings at Columbia Army Airbase, South Carolina.

2. Based upon the request of the Commanding General, Third Air Forces, by 2nd Indorsement dated 5 June 1944 and the recommendation of the Division Engineer, South Atlantic Division, by 3rd Indorsement dated 9 June 1944, a military necessity no longer exists for the acquisition of certain land and it is necessary to amend Directive No. RE-D 1490 dated 21 August 1942 mentioned in paragraph one (1) preceding to provide for the elimination of land and revesting of title therein as set forth below:

a. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF LAND: A certain parcel of land situate in Lexington County, South Carolina, being a portion of Tract A-16 as shown in red on the inclosed map dated 16 November 1943 marked Directive Map - Original and entitled "Columbia Army Airbase," Drawing No. 957-4.

b. ACREAGE INVOLVED: Approximately 25.7 acres.

c. REMARKS: The former owner has agreed to accept the re-vesting of title and waive all claims for damages to the property occasioned by the Government's use and occupancy.

3. It is recommended that the Under Secretary of War be informed that a military necessity no longer exists for the acquisition of land as above outlined and that he be requested to authorize the elimination and revesting of title in the land.

E. REYBOLD
Major-General
Chief of Engineers

SAD. 3/24

ADDRESSEE REPLY TO
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON

REFER TO FILE NO. CE 601.1 (Columbia Army
Air Base, S.C.) SPELA

March 23, 1943.

SUBJECT: Land Acquisition - Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina.

TO : The Commanding General, Army Service Forces.

1. There is a military necessity for the acquisition of land described under subject above and described more in detail in paragraph 2 below.

2. Description of land, and other pertinent data, are as follows:

a. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE LAND: Certain tracts or parcels of land situate in Lexington County, South Carolina, more particularly shown on the inclosed map.

b. PROPOSED USE: The area is required to provide an Army Air Base at Columbia, South Carolina.

c. ACREAGE INVOLVED: Approximately 442.56 acres.

d. IMPROVEMENTS: Buildings, fences, etc.

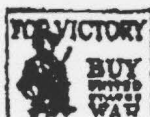
e. ESTIMATED COST: Approximately \$30,000.00.

f. METHOD OF ACQUISITION: Fee simple title by condemnation and the filing of a declaration of taking.

g. REMARKS: The subject land is now under lease to the United States at an annual rental of \$3,263.00, or approximately one-third more than the appraised lease value. Although the "Restoration Clause" has been stricken from the majority of the leases, there is a provision in favor of the Lessor for reasonable damages as a result of changes made in the improvements, and it has been determined to be to the best interests of the United States to acquire the subject land in fee simple title. This determination is based upon the fact that approximately 204 buildings, Barracks, Mess Halls, Offices, etc., complete with water, sewage and lighting installations have been constructed. It is estimated that the value of improvements within the area is approximately one million dollars, and it would not be practicable to restore the property to its former condition.

3. The determination of military necessity is based upon the approval of the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, as indicated in the inclosed 2nd Indorsement, dated February 3, 1943, and upon the inclosed correspondence from the Office of the Division Engineer.

4. Funds for this acquisition are available from Public 649, 77th Congress, approved July 2, 1942.



5. It is recommended that the Under Secretary of War be informed that a military necessity exists for the acquisition of the above-mentioned land, and that he be requested to authorize this office to acquire the necessary land for this project.

For the Chief of Engineers:

2 Incls.

#1-Ltr. 1/14/43 w/4 Incls. & Incl. #1

#2 - Directive Map.

Thomas H. Roberts

THOMAS H. ROBERTS,
Major General,
Assistant Chief of Engineers.

CE 601.1 COLUMBIA ARMY AIR BASE,
S. C.-SPELR

SUBJECT: Amendment of Land ac-
quisition, Columbia Army Air Base,
S. C.

3rd Ind.

Office, Chief of Engineers,

5 August 1943

TO: The Commanding General, Army Service Forces.

1. Preceding 2nd indorsement dated 21 August 1942, authorized the acquisition in fee of 1,534.2 acres of land at an estimated cost of \$106,891 for use as an ordnance area, hospital area, housing area, sewage disposal plant, parking and hardstandings, Columbia Army Air Base, S. C.

2. It has now been determined that a necessity no longer exists for the acquisition of this entire tract of land in the manner above-mentioned by reason that a suitable lease covering 8.6 acres of land, identified as Tract A-10 and shown in red on the inclosed map, has been negotiated at a nominal consideration.

3. It is, therefore, recommended that the Under Secretary of War be advised that a necessity no longer exists for the acquisition of the entire area in fee as set forth in the basic papers and that he be requested to amend the aforementioned directive so as to acquire this 8.6 acres of land by lease rather than in fee.

For the Chief of Engineers:

Thomas M. Robins

THOMAS M. ROBINS,
Major General,
Assistant Chief of Engineers.

1 Incl:

Incls. #1 & #2 w/d.

Added:

#3 Ltr. 6/24/43 w/1 copy of
each incl.

SUBJECT: Land Acquisition - Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina.

1st Ind.

War Department, Headquarters, Services of Supply, August 21, 1942
To: The Under Secretary of War.

1. The Secretary of War directs that you be informed that a military necessity exists for the acquisition of the land referred to in the basic communication.

For the Commanding General:

2 Incls. n/c

W. D. STILES,
Brigadier General, G.S.C.,
Chief of Staff.

2nd Ind.

Office of the Under Secretary of War, August 21, 1942. To: Chief of Engineers

For acquisition of land in accordance with Section VII, Circular No. 47, W.D. 1942.

By direction of the Under Secretary of War:

MARION ROBERTSON,
Colonel, J.A.G.D.,
Assistant Executive.

Incls. n/c

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE
UNDER SECRETARY

REALTY CONTROL FILE SUMMARY
(Land Acquisitions and Disposal Subsequent to 1 July 1940)

2390

RESERVATION NAME:

Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina

OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED BY:

A.G.O. Ltr. AG 680.9 (3-25-42), 3-27-42

LOCATION:

In Lexington County, 6 miles S.W. of Columbia

TYPE:

Main Base, Combat Crew Training Station

LAND OWNERSHIP AND COST DATA

ACQUISITION ACTIONS

Exhibits "A"

NET AREA:

EXHIBITS "A" AND "B" INCLUDED
SEE TRACT REGISTER AND MAP

1,833.37 acres, fee
10.29 acres, Easement (1)
.70 of an acre *
0.00 License (1)
0.00 Permit (2)
1,844.36 acres, total area acquired
1,843.66 acres **
.70 acres
.70 of an acre ***
.00 acre

JURISDICTION

Exhibits "C"

FINAL PROJECT MAP:

Exhibit "D"

MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS:

Exhibit "E"
Recapture Provisions

REMARKS:

- * Use Permit dated 4-14-44 from Federal Public Housing Authority.
- ** Accountability assumed by War Assets Administration, includes (1) License and (2) Permits, 27 March 1947.

DISPOSAL ACTIONS:

Exhibits "B"

GROSS COST:

\$147,794.51

RELOCATIONS: